

Hafa Adai!

OAG points out conflict of interest in Villanueva case. **PAGE 2**

NMC Nursing graduate Kimberly Hofschneider passes NCLEX-RN. **PAGE 3**

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# Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXIV, Issue No. 214

www.saipantribune.com

FRIDAY OCTOBER 25, 2024

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## Cantor: 902 talks productive

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES  
kimberly\_esmores@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The discussions between the CNMI and U.S. governments pursuant to Section 902 of the Covenant have been productive and is expected to be extended.

Yesterday, local media representatives were given an opportunity to meet the panelists of the 902 consultations that are currently being held in the CNMI. The talks are led by assistant secretary of the Interior for Insular Affairs Carmen Cantor and Gov. Arnold I. Palacios.



Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, left, and assistant secretary of the Interior for Insular Affairs Carmen Cantor speak to local media outlets during the second day of 902 discussions.



KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

Local media representatives yesterday were given an opportunity to meet the panelists of the 902 consultations that are currently being held in the CNMI. The talks are led by assistant secretary of the Interior for Insular Affairs Carmen Cantor and Gov. Arnold I. Palacios.

## Nearly 2,000 signatures garnered in petition for probe into CUC charges

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES  
kimberly\_esmores@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

A newly established non-profit advocacy group called Hands of the Community has launched a petition for the Legislature to investigate

the Commonwealth Utilities Corp's Fuel Adjustment Charges in hopes of lowering the cost of utility bills in the CNMI. The petition has garnered nearly 2,000 physical and online signatures.

See PETITION on Page 4

## MACS could begin inter-island service as early as December



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Newly established airline Micronesia Air Connection Services aims to provide inter-island air services using these planes pursuant to a qualifying certificate from the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority.

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES  
kimberly\_esmores@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Should the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority grant J&P Holdings (CNMI) LLC a qualifying certificate—essentially to waive certain local taxes for J&P Holdings, its subsidiaries, and its owners—Micronesia Air Connections Services could start providing regular inter-island air service as early as December.

See MACS on Page 4

## DPS: No current signs of foul play in CK death

By CHRYSTAL MARINO  
chrystal\_marino@saipantribune.com  
CORRESPONDENT

Although the identity of the Chinese man whose body was found in a Chalan Kanoa apartment Tuesday has not been made public yet, police

said that he was 59 years old. Criminal Investigation Bureau commander Capt. Jeffrey Olopai shared that while DPS has established the identity of the man, they are still currently reaching

See DPS on Page 4

## INSIDE

### LOCAL

In expressing its gratitude to Tinian residents, the Early Intervention Program of the Public School System has reaffirmed its dedication to carrying on its free early detection services to infants, toddlers, and their families which they have been providing for the last 20 years.

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### SUPPLEMENT

Join Saipan Tribune as it helps Herman's Modern Bakery celebrate its 80th anniversary with a special supplement.

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### LIFE & STYLE

In the dark, dozens of people lined a narrow road near the Samoan fishing village of Siumu, gathering near a sign bearing a portrait of King Charles III and waiting excitedly for a glimpse of the real monarch.

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# Herman's Modern Bakery

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT INSIDE

## 80th Anniversary







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# Local

## OAG points out conflict of interest in Villanueva case

By **CHRISTAL MARINO**  
chrystal\_marino@saipantribune.com  
CORRESPONDENT

In the ongoing legal battle surrounding former governor Ralph DLG Torres, the Office of Attorney General yesterday filed a notice of conflict of interest in the criminal case against Shayne Blanco Villanueva, a former contractor and political associate of Torres.

Filed by special prosecutor James Kingman in the NMI Superior Court, the notice highlights potential ethical concerns regarding Villanueva's representation by Torres Bros, LLC—a firm led by the former governor's brothers.

Central to the notice is Joaquin Torres, who represents Villanueva while also serving as lead counsel for his brother, former governor Torres, in several criminal cases involving allegations of misuse of public funds.

"Counsel Joaquin Torres... entered his appearance in this matter on Oct. 21, 2024," Joaquin Torres is currently defending his brother in two significant cases concerning alleged misuse of public resources, including charges of

misconduct in public office and contempt of legislature.

Villanueva's role in the Building Optimism, Opportunities, and Stability Program—a publicly funded initiative now under scrutiny—further complicates the situation. As both a manager in the program and an officer in Torres' political party, Villanueva faces charges of contempt of legislature for allegedly obstructing investigations into the program's financial management. According to the filing, "defendant Shayne Villanueva was a contractor with and a manager of the BOOST program. Simultaneously, he was an officer in former governor Torres' political party and a member of his campaign."

The Commonwealth argues that Joaquin Torres' dual representation presents a conflict of interest, particularly in light of the Sixth Amendment, which guarantees the right to conflict-free counsel. The filing references United States v. Mett, stating that "effective assistance of counsel 'includes a right to conflict-free counsel.'" The notice further cites the

American Bar Association's Model Rules of Professional Conduct on the duty of loyalty, emphasizing that "absent consent, a lawyer may not act as an advocate in one matter against a person the lawyer represents in some other matter."

While the Commonwealth has raised these concerns, the filing acknowledges that the court has options. It notes that if the conflict is deemed "consentable," Villanueva could choose to waive his right to conflict-free counsel, provided he does so with full knowledge of the potential implications. "If the Torres Bros' conflict is determined to be consentable, such admonishments and signatures can be made before trial."

The Commonwealth's legal team emphasizes that, while conflicts of interest can arise frequently within the CNMI's close-knit legal community, they argue that this situation requires careful scrutiny. "Former governor Torres' name and signature are on the notices of awards, the agreements, and the solicitations," the notice asserts, suggesting

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NMC Nursing graduate Kimberly Hofschneider passes NCLEX-RN

Northern Marianas College 2024 nursing graduate Kimberly Hofschneider has joined the long list of NMC students who have passed the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses or NCLEX-RN.

Nursing graduates must pass the NCLEX-RN to be able to practice nursing as a registered nurse.

The exam tests nursing graduates' knowledge, skills, and abilities to certify that they can apply entry-level nursing practices correctly.

"We are incredibly proud of Kimberly," NMC Nursing Department chair Rosa Aldan said. "Her passing of the NCLEX-RN is a testament to her dedication and commitment to nursing, and the nursing team and I are excited to see her work alongside her peers as a registered nurse."

NMC president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero extends his congratulatory remarks, "The college is incredibly proud of Kimberly for her successful passage of the NCLEX-RN. Her journey is an inspiration

to many, and we look forward to her future."

"My motivation was pursuing a career that allowed me to help others while providing for my daughter," Hofschneider stated. She also noted that the nursing profession opens up many career and learning opportunities.

When preparing for the NCLEX-RN, Hofschneider found that the weekly four-hour Kaplan training sessions provided by NMC's Nursing Program played a significant role in her passage. While gaining knowledge about the type of content that will be on the exam, she was simultaneously able to train her mental stamina.

"Sitting down for four hours straight answering over 150 questions without losing focus is difficult.

However, these sessions trained me to overcome that obstacle," she stated. "When I took the NCLEX I told myself, 'This is just another Kaplan session!'"

In advice to other NMC

students who are planning to take the NCLEX-RN, Hofschneider expressed, "Content knowledge is your foundation but other key factors such as mental stamina, confidence, and humility plays a big part in your success as well."

She additionally emphasizes the importance of asking for help and advice in times of need.

"Have confidence in yourself! You were meant to be a registered nurse, otherwise, you wouldn't have made it this far. Calm your nerves and just tell yourself 'It's just another four-hour Kaplan session,'" she said. (PR)

180 Productions to hold free haunted house, original play

By CHRYSTAL MARINO  
chrystal\_marino@saipantribune.com  
CORRESPONDENT

Presenting a production, written, directed and featuring local actors and talents, 180 Productions is looking forward to bringing a completely free Halloween event with a walk-through haunted house and original play this weekend.

Happening 7pm nightly on Oct. 26, 27, and 28, the show will go on for three days at the 180 Productions venue across Hopwood Middle School's soccer field in Chalan Piao.

180 Productions outreach director Benster Aldan shared with *Saipan Tribune* that the


production will include a walkthrough haunted house and a play. "The play is entitled 'Trapped' about seven teenagers who are kidnapped by a psychopath, and forced to play a game of escape. It'll be completely free and hopefully bring not only entertainment for the community, but also a positive message."

With an over 30-member strong cast and crew, Aldan shared that the production was written, directed, and will feature several local talents.

"We're looking forward to bringing this production to our community in Saipan. The team has been working hard to put

this together and provide an exciting event for our community. We will warn that the production will contain flashing lights, loud noises, and some intense content that may be considered disturbing to some, so viewer discretion is advised. But other than that, we are excited to invite the community to this event. We hope to see you there."

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Board of Directors of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) through its Chairperson, hereby informs the General Public that the NMHC Board of Directors will hold its regular meeting on Wednesday, October 30, 2024, at 12:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at the NMHC Conference Room, Garapan Saipan. The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

- a. Call to Order
- b. Roll Call
- c. Adoption of Agenda
- d. Adoption of Meeting Minutes:

PUBLIC COMMENTS

CORPORATE DIRECTORS REPORT

- a. General Agency Updates
- b. Financial Reports
- c. FY 21, FY 22, FY 23 Audit Status
- d. Division Updates
- e. CDBG-DR Updates

DEPUTY CORPORATE DIRECTORS REPORT

- a. Homeowner Assistance Fund Program Update
- b. Local Loan Program Update

OLD BUSINESS

- a. Elderly and People with Disabilities Grant Program

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Amended NMHC Personnel Regulations
- b. Promulgation of New Regulations for Contracted Employees
- c. Recession of NMHC Mandatory COVID 19 Vaccination Policy
- d. Palm Breeze Request to Return and Reallocate LIHTC Tax Credits

LEGAL COUNSEL'S PENDING/ONGOING REPORT



EXECUTIVE SESSION


- a. Personnel
- b. CDBG-DR

ADJOURNMENT

(Notes: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13 (a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/  
Merced (Marcie) M. Tomokane  
Chairperson of the Board

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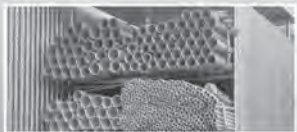
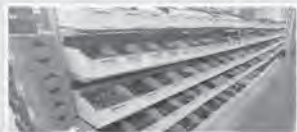


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## Smoke and dye testing for Oleai today

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the general public that dye tests and smoke tests will be conducted at Oleai today, Oct. 25, 2024, from 9am to 2pm. The purpose of these tests is to locate leaks, breaks, and other connections in CUC's sewer system.

### About dye test

A dye test is a sewer inspection method whereby nontoxic dye

is introduced into the toilets and cleanouts of participating customers. CUC's wastewater operators will monitor sewer lines for any signs of presence from the dye. If the dye appears in CUC's sewer lines within the customer's area, the customer will then be informed of their connection, and the data will be sent to the Billing Department for proper billing.

Customers should be ex-

pecting a visitation from CUC's Wastewater Operators to request for access before performing the dye test.

### About smoke test

A smoke test is a sewer inspection method whereby nontoxic smoke is forced into sewer system access points. The smoke travels through all connected pipes in the sewer system, indicating pipe leaks, breached utility holes, cracks,

## CANTOR

From page 1

opportunity to meet the panelists of the 902 consultations that are currently being held in the CNMI. The talks are led by assistant secretary of the Interior for Insular Affairs Carmen Cantor and Gov. Arnold I. Palacios.

The panelists chosen to represent the CNMI include Commonwealth Economic Development Authority's Michael Sablan, Senate President Edith DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan), House Speaker Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan), former Superior Court judge Wesley Bogdan, Tinian Chamber of Commerce's Phillip Mendio-

la-Long, Sen. Donald Manglona (Ind-Rota), Matthew Adams, economist Matthew DeLeon Guerrero, Tina Sablan, Department of Labor Secretary Leila Staffler, and Finance Secretary Tracy Norita.

Meanwhile, federal representatives include special assistant to assistant secretary Abdiel Razo, associate director of Policy Basil Ottley, assistant solicitor at U.S. Department of the Interior Tim Murphy, and budget officer for the Office of Insular Affairs Jonathan Dunn.

In a quick statement from Cantor, she said it's a pleasure and honor to engage in discussion with CNMI stakeholders.

"It is a great pleasure and honor to join you hear in the

Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands as the United States' special representative to engage in the important work of the 902 consultations as provided in Article 7 of the Covenant. We received the CNMI's position paper regarding economic development and assistance. I commend the team for its clarity in discussing the CNMI's fiscal and economic challenges and its thoughtful treatment of the opportunity to structure a more sustainable future," she said.

As far as discussions go, she shared that they have been productive.

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

## MACS

From page 1

A long standing CNMI investor, J&P Holdings, owned by John and Paula Stewart, has decided to branch out from air cargo, charter, scenic flight, and skydiving services by establishing a new airline in the CNMI focused on safe and

reliable inter-island travel as well as direct air service from Saipan to Guam.

J&P Holdings' endeavor comes at a time when inter-island travel faces uncertainties due to ongoing legal battles between the Commonwealth Ports Authority and the CNMI's sole inter-island service provider Star Marianas Air.

However, providing this kind of service is no easy feat as it would cost upwards of \$8 million to cover the costs of acquiring planes alone (specifically nine 9-seater planes, with plans to expand into 19-seater planes).

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

### JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

**NAME OF EMPLOYER:** C.Y.H. Corporation **THE POSITION:** Accountant **NO. OF VACANCY:** 1  
**JOB SITE:** Dandan Road, Dandan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
**JOB DESCRIPTION:** Review, formulate, recommend, and implement accounting policies, systems, and procedures of the company. Provides and interprets fundamental financial data and information to management. Maintain accuracy of general revenue, expenditure ledgers, and subsidiary financial systems; Reconcile financial ledgers and records; Prepare the following financial statements and reports following generally accepted accounting principles and statutory basis: (a) Balance Sheet; (b) Statement of Income and Surplus; (c) Statement of Cash Flows; and (d) Annual Statements; Prepare general and subsidiary ledgers and supporting schedules; Verify all journals, checks, and account payable vouchers and checks propriety of entries and adequacy of supporting documents; Supervise and coordinate with bookkeeper and accounting/auditing clerk to ensure that postings to the books of accounts are accurate and that the subsidiary ledgers are up to date and periodically reconcile with the general ledger; Research and resolve discrepancies; Review aging of account payables and receivables; Review and audit all account payables, purchase orders, cash receipts, payables, utility billings, and other accounting records and transactions; Ensure money is posted to correct accounts and that all account balance; Provide assistance in the development of budgets for various projects and create a variety of spreadsheets, documents, and graphs for that purpose, if necessary; Perform treasury functions, such as matching and timing of fund sources with disbursements and the implementation of budget; Prepare bank reconciliations and related journal entries for a variety of accounts, including, but not limited to, debt and loan servicing; Prepare a variety of monthly, periodic, and annual financial and statistical reports and account summaries; Prepare year-end closings and accompanying financial reports; Maintain records for audit purposes; Maintain and track fixed assets inventory control records for the company; Participate in year-end audits; Compile and prepare supporting schedules, work papers, and financial reports as requested by auditors; Provide responsible assistance to management staff; Provide and interpret fundamental financial data and information to management; Analyze financial transactions and formulas; Interpret and apply applicable federal, state, and local laws, codes, and regulations; Maintain efficient and effective financial systems and procedures; Examine and verify financial documents and reports; and Perform other related duties as may be assigned.

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**WORK EXPERIENCE:** Must have at least 24 months of relevant work experience as an Accountant.  
**HOW TO APPLY:** Submit or mail comprehensive Resume and supporting credentials to:

**THOMAS ALDAN**  
Resident Agent  
C.Y.H. CORPORATION  
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Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 506670 CK, Saipan, MP 96950  
Email Address: cyh01.corp@gmail.com  
Telephone Number: (670) 288-3526

### JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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**JOB LOCATION:** Dandan Road, Dandan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
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**MINIMUM QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:**  
**EDUCATION:** Must be at least a High School graduate.  
**WORK EXPERIENCE:** Must have at least 24 months of work experience in sales of consumer products.  
**HOW TO APPLY:** Submit or mail comprehensive Resume and supporting credentials to;

**THOMAS ALDAN**  
Resident Agent  
C.Y.H. CORPORATION  
Office Address: Dandan Road, Dandan, Saipan,  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 506670 CK, Saipan, MP 96950  
Email Address: cyh01.corp@gmail.com  
Telephone Number: (670) 288-3526

uncapped lines, and other defects. Testers can also locate unknown pipe sections, such as cleanouts, downspouts, and sump pumps.

The smoke is nontoxic, nonhazardous, and is manufactured specifically for this purpose. It leaves no residue or stains and has no effects on plants or animals. The smoke is not expected to enter your

home; however, if it does, it will have a distinct odor and should clear out within a few minutes with proper ventilation. Please be advised that all plumbing fixture drain traps must be filled with water before the test.

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

## PETITION

From page 1

Four days ago, newly established non-profit advocacy group called Hands of the Community launched a petition for the Legislature to investigate and lower CUC's electricity rates and among other things.

The petition has since garnered around 1,950 physical and online signatures.

According to member Candice Muna, group members will be at the Legislature to publicly comment about CUC today during a House regular session.

The petition essentially urges legislators to investigate CUC's rates as it has become the highest nationwide.

"We, the undersigned residents of the CNMI, express our grave concern over the extremely high cost of utili-

ties, especially electricity, in the CNMI. Electricity rates in the CNMI are now the highest in the United States and all its territories. We strongly urge our elected and appointed leaders to investigate this serious issue that adversely affects the health, welfare, and livelihood of every person who resides in our islands. For 46 years—since becoming a self-governing commonwealth of the United States—the CNMI government has run its public utilities through the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., which operates as a monopoly. As a government-created monopoly, CUC has an obligation to be fair and reasonable in the rates it charges public utility consumers (ratepayers)," said the petition.

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

## DPS

From page 1

out to the Chinese consulate to try and locate a next of kin, thus they couldn't yet disclose his name to the public.

"We will be requesting through the OAG [Office of Attorney General] that an autopsy be conducted. The cause of death is still undetermined, [but there are] no signs of foul play [that] has been determined at this point of time."

With concerns arising in the community that a killer is on the loose, DPS assistant chief

of police and acting public information officer Simon T. Manacop shared, "DPS is working diligently in gathering facts surrounding this investigation. We assure the public that at this point there are no evidence that suggest that the death was caused by another person."

He continued to urge the community that if they saw or have seen anything of suspicious nature to contact DPS or Crime Stoppers if they wish to remain anonymous.

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

## OAG

From page 2

a close connection between Torres's involvement in the BOOST program and Villanueva's case.

With the Torres Bros firm previously advocating for a broad interpretation of conflicts in other cases, in this case, the Commonwealth contends that such broad interpretations could shield Torres from prosecution, but similar concerns may now arise regarding the firm's representation of Villanueva. The notice argues that "the firm has advanced such an expansive and strict interpretation of conflicts of interest that would shield their brother/client from

prosecution, but clearly do not want such a rule to apply to themselves."

Should the court determine the conflict is "consentable," the Commonwealth requests that any waiver from Villanueva be fully documented to avoid future claims of ineffective counsel. "If the court considers the conflict to be consentable, the Commonwealth requests a full admonishment and waiver to be put in writing, to preclude the claim of ineffective assistance of counsel in case of appeal."

As the legal debate continues, the court's decision may establish an important precedent in the complex web of ongoing cases related to the former governor's administration.

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Attorney for Petitioner Diego M. Cabrera

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

**IN THE MATTER OF** | Civil Action  
**THE ESTATE OF** | No. 24-0239  
**ANTONIO SABLAN** | **NOTICE OF HEARING AND**  
**CABRERA,** | **NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
**Decedent.** | **DATE: November 14, 2024**  
| **TIME: 10:00 a.m.**  
| **JUDGE: Joseph N. Camacho**

**TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE ANTONIO SABLAN CABRERA OR HIS ESTATE**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that DIEGO M. CABRERA has petitioned the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to issue a Petition to Admit Estate with Limited Valued Assets to Probate Proceedings and for Appointment of Administratrix for the Estate of Antonio Sablan Cabrera, the decedent. The Proposed Administratrix is Diego M. Cabrera, decedent's son and petitioner. The Attorney for the Petitioner/Proposed Administratrix is Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, whose address is 5260 Plata Drive P.O. Box 500730, Saipan MP 96950.

The hearing on the Petition is scheduled to be heard on the date and at the time set forth above at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing. Any and all persons, creditors, or entities having claims against the decedent or his Estate are hereby required by law to file their claim with the Clerk of Court within sixty (60) days of this publication or the claims will be barred. A copy of your claim should also be sent to the attorney for the Petitioner, ROBERT T. TORRES, Attorney at Law, at the address above indicated. Dated this 15th day of October 2024.

/s/ Clerk of Court/ Deputy Clerk of Court



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# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXIII, Issue No. 214

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,  
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI  
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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### EDITORIAL

## Time to pass a federal shield law

**F**orty-nine states, including Nevada, have enacted some version of a “shield law,” preventing the government from forcing reporters to reveal their notes or sources. It’s well past time that the folks inside the Beltway followed suit.

Shield law protections give life to the First Amendment. If the government can compel reporters, editors and other members of the media to divulge confidential sources or research files, this will effectively discourage whistleblowers and others from coming forward, undermining the ability of the press to hold public officials accountable for questionable or even illegal acts.

Allowing the government to do an end-run around the Bill of Rights is anathema to a free and healthy democratic republic.

“For the press to be truly free, as the First Amendment guarantees,” said Tim Wheeler, who chairs the Society of Environmental Journalists Freedom of Information Task Force, “journalists need to be able to safeguard the confidentiality of sources whose information helps hold government to account.”

There are few elected officials in our nation’s capital who would publicly offer an opposing viewpoint. Yet Congress for decades has been unable to muster the will to pass a shield law, enshrining these vital First Amendment protections at the federal level. That must change.

This year has brought encouraging developments. In July, the House passed the PRESS Act without a dissenting vote. One of the bill’s sponsors, Rep. Jamie Raskin, a Democrat from Maryland, explained to Quill, a publication from the Society of Professional Journalists, that the legislation “is an attempt to draw a line around journalists to protect their work and their information from government intrusion and harassment. There are exceptions in the legislation for cases of terrorism and threats of imminent violence and harm, but absent that, the PRESS Act protects journalistic privilege.”

Unfortunately, the measure has since stalled in the Senate despite enjoying support from a bipartisan coalition — and time for action is running out on the current Congress.

The Hill reports that Sen. Tom Cotton, an Oklahoma Republican, has helped block the proposal by opposing a unanimous consent vote. He has previously voiced concerns about the PRESS Act leading to “a floodgate of leaks damaging to law enforcement and our nation’s security.” Other observers believe Sen. Cotton’s intransigence is the result of a general animosity toward left-leaning journalists.

Neither objection passes muster. The legislation is ideologically neutral, protecting reporters and editors regardless of their politics. As for compromising law enforcement or national security, that’s absurd. A greater danger would be to erode the very freedoms that protect American citizens from the perils of government overreach while shielding the state from scrutiny.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, who has supported the bill, should make it a priority as the session winds

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## Trump wants to undermine America’s free and fair elections—and the world is watching

**H**ere’s the most depressing aspect of this election: Half the country is ready to vote for a man who opposes the basic principle on which this nation was founded—the right to a free and fair vote.

Donald Trump has not only sold his MAGA followers on the Big Lie that he won the 2020 presidential race, but he has convinced them that the only fair election is one he wins. His endless, groundless lies about voter fraud have soured many Americans’ belief in our electoral system.

In stark contrast, Ukrainians, Belarusians, and other citizens of former Soviet republics are still fighting and dying for free elections. They are struggling against Vladimir Putin, who wants to restore Soviet-style control over their countries. The Russian leader imprisoned and murdered his own leading opponent, Alexei Navalny, who tried to organize a genuine opposition party.

Yet, Trump brags of his friendship with Putin, and has convinced many MAGA Republicans that this killer is a good guy. The idea of fighting for basic democratic principles, like the right to vote freely no matter how tough the odds, never enters Trump’s head. For him, international relations are only about who profits and who pays up.

Trump blamed Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on a podcast last week for the Russian invasion of Ukraine—a line he was probably fed by Putin in one of their many phone conversations. “That war’s a loser,” he told the host, claiming Zelenskyy should have settled with Putin before the war started.

In other words, Ukrainians should have surrendered their freedom voluntarily to a cold-blooded monster whom Trump admires for his machismo, and who imprisons any dissident calling for a free vote.

Trump falsely claimed the Ukrainian leader was only in it for the money he milked from the United States. In other words, the pious piper of MAGA couldn’t imagine any other motive for Zelenskyy’s heroic struggle than personal financial gain. It would never occur to the GOP candidate that Ukrainians believe in their freedom—and voting rights—so firmly that they are willing to fight back against terrible odds.

If Trump had been alive when the Revolutionary War began, he would have likely labeled George Washington a loser for taking on the British empire. If he had been on the Ukrainian front lines and met the lawyers, accountants, teachers, and journalists who volunteered right after Russia’s invasion—and who say they will fight to the end for their independence—he would have called them losers, too.

Americans seem to have forgotten, or never learned, about life behind the Iron Curtain during the Cold War, and the struggles by Russians and East and Central Europeans for the voting rights

**By TRUDY RUBIN**  
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for The Philadelphia Inquirer.



we take for granted.

I visited those countries and wrote of those struggles in the 1980s, and about the pro-democracy leaders who were imprisoned or murdered. When the Iron Curtain parted in 1989, and the Czechoslovak dissident Václav Havel went from prison to elected president, he spoke about the fight for democracy to the U.S. Congress in February of 1990. At that time, the legislators cheered wildly. They were proud of being a democratic role model for ex-communist countries, at least in free and fair elections.

Today, cowed Republican lawmakers who know Trump lost in 2020 and inspired an insurrection mumble or change the subject when asked if Joe Biden won that election. Yale-educated lawyer and MAGA vice presidential candidate JD Vance is so anxious not to anger his running mate that his response to the question is no.

Rather than serve as a role model for freedom seekers whom dictators seek to silence, the U.S. has reached the point where we must now turn to them as role models. Should autocrat-wannabe Trump win, those Americans who still value democracy should stop talking about moving to Canada. Instead, they should look for inspiration from political dissidents abroad who fight on in circumstances much more dangerous than ours.

One of those brave dissidents, who spoke recently at Perry World House at the University of Pennsylvania, is Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, who would have won the 2020 presidential election in Belarus had it not been rigged by its Putin-friendly dictator, Alexander Lukashenko.

A soft-spoken former English teacher and homemaker, she made the decision to run after her husband — a famous blogger and promising candidate—was thrown into jail.

Hundreds of thousands of pro-democracy Belarusians demonstrated massively against the stolen election. But Putin helped Lukashenko crush the rebellion, and tens of thousands were imprisoned or fled into exile. A former Soviet republic, Belarus borders Ukraine and Russia and has essentially been taken over by Putin, who moved Russian troops and nuclear weapons into the country.

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# Vegan meals should be standard in hospitals—Here's why

By **REBECCA LIBAUSKAS**

PEOPLE FOR THE ETHICAL TREATMENT OF ANIMALS

*Rebecca Libauskas is a climate research specialist for the PETA Foundation.*

**V**egan food is medicine. But during a recent hospital stay, I saw an absurd number of animal-derived foods on the menu: greasy cheese, cholesterol-laden meat, fatty dairy milk. It made about as much sense as a mechanic pouring tallow into an engine.

New York City Health + Hospitals has the right idea: Vegan food has been the default for the group's patients since 2021. And a recent paper in the American Journal of Lifestyle Medicine revealed that these hospitals enjoy high patient satisfaction, reduced greenhouse gas emissions and lower costs. So, for our wallets, our health and the planet and its inhabitants, let's offer vegan foods in all hospitals—and everywhere else, too.

There's no nutritional need for humans to eat anything from animals. The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics says that compared with meat-eaters, vegans enjoy lower blood cholesterol levels, lower blood pressure and lower body mass indexes—as well as decreased rates of cancer, hypertension and type 2 diabetes. Plus, eating vegan, even for a short period, may slow down the aging process of the heart, the liver and the hormonal, inflammatory and metabolic systems, according to a new study published in BMC Medicine.

If we want to combat “superbugs,” we absolutely must go vegan. Antibiotic resistance is primarily driven by the overuse of antibiotics in animal agriculture. Farms use a whopping 80% of antibiotics sold in the U.S., often to prevent disease in animals forced to live in unhealthy, severely crowded conditions. Overusing these drugs accelerates bacteria's ability to become resistant to them. A brand-new study published in The Lancet estimates that 39 million people will die from antimicrobial-resistant pathogens

## TIME

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down, even if that means less time for other Democratic priorities. We trust it will pass overwhelmingly, with Nevada's two senators, Jacky Rosen and Catherine Cortez Masto, on board. Congress has fiddled for long enough on this important legislation. The time to act is now.

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## TRUMP

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Tsikhouskaya was forced to flee with her two young children into exile in neighboring Lithuania, where she runs the Belarusian opposition movement. “Our goal is to hold free and fair elections,” she told Penn students. She admitted the struggle was difficult, but insisted it was not hopeless, no matter how long it took.

She was asked by a student: “Should American youth be cynical and pessimistic about democracy, or passionate in its defense?”

Her reply: “I think we shouldn't be cynical or pessimistic about anything. We just must do what's right. And defending democracy is the right thing to do.

“When you live in democracy, you take such things for granted. Believe me, democracy is so easy to lose, and so hard to get back. We Belarusians know it so well. Please stand with those who fight for democracy.”

Another student asked her: “Does Trump make you nervous?” Her reply: “You are a happy people not to know who will be elected. In a democracy, one person can't change everything.”

She added: “I want to believe the election won't change policies toward Ukraine or Belarus. If you stop assistance, it will be a defeat of the whole democratic world.”

And here I believe is the double message that worried Americans should take from a heroine such as Tsikhouskaya: Be passionate in the defense of democracy, at home. If democracy is badly wounded in November by a GOP candidate who envies Putin, do not abandon that defense. The path may not yet be clear, but neither is the struggle for Belarus—yet Tsikhouskaya fights on.

At the same time, stand with those who support democracy, including Belarusian exiles and the people of Ukraine. “Putin wants Ukraine to fail. He wants to show that liberal democracy is a failure, not just in Eastern Europe but in Western Europe and the USA,” Tsikhouskaya told me when I interviewed her in Vilnius, Lithuania, just before Russia invaded Ukraine.

The 2024 election will test whether America's defense of democracy is as passionate as hers.

by 2050. And that doesn't include zoonotic diseases.

Three out of four new infectious diseases in humans come from animals due to our dependence on animal agriculture for food and other items. These zoonotic diseases, which are transmitted from animals to humans—like COVID-19—have caused devastating outbreaks. Experts, including the World Health Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, have long warned that continuing to exploit animals for food makes future pandemics inevitable.

It's no secret that healthcare in the U.S. is expensive. Fortunately, vegan staples—such as pasta, rice, tofu and beans—are much more economical than meat and other animal-derived foods. The long shelf life of these items makes bulk purchasing a viable option—driving down the cost even more.

And as we consider how food choices relate to finances, let's not forget the economic strain that monstrous storms are inflicting on us. There's a scientific consensus that human activities—such as burning fossil fuels—are driving the climate catastrophe. Studies show that the rate and intensity of extreme weather events, such as floods, droughts and storms, have increased significantly over the past few decades. The number of climate-related disasters, for example, skyrocketed 83% from 1980 to

1999. Monster hurricanes like Helene and Milton will become more common as the planet continues to heat up. But we can all help reverse that trend by going vegan.

Animal agriculture accounts for at least 16.5% of global greenhouse gas emissions. And the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency states that animal agriculture is the single largest source of methane emissions in the country. These emissions trap heat in the atmosphere, leading to a rise in global temperatures—causing extreme and unpredictable weather events, including hurricanes.

And let's remember the animals themselves, who suffer in crowded, filthy conditions. They're subjected to mutilations like dehorning and beak-trimming, often without pain relief. The massive corporations that run most factory farms have found that they can make more money by squeezing as many animals as possible into tiny spaces—even though many of them suffer and die from disease or infection. Going vegan means taking a stand against cruelty to animals.

Embracing vegan food is essential for improving human health, reducing costs and addressing critical issues like the climate catastrophe. So let's prioritize bringing vegan food into our lives as the medicine it is, in hospitals, schools and everywhere else.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

# Reasons to vote blue in the delegate race

Our delegate is the only voice we have in the U.S. federal government. While our delegate is limited to the House of Representatives and can't vote on legislation, the delegate participates in House committees and votes on important legislation. The delegate meets and confers with other lawmakers who do vote. And the delegate maintains an office in our capital, Washington, D.C. and has eyes and ears to the ground to catch the news, trends, and possibilities that are the bread and butter of political discourse. If we want help from our federal government, we need an effective delegate.

Now more than ever, it is critical that we have a delegate we can count on. Our U.S. constitutional government is under attack—both from foreign adversaries who wage hidden propaganda wars to ruin us from within and to discredit us before our allies; and by those who have fallen prey to adverse influence and support upending our constitution, limiting freedoms like speech and press, and turning against other democratic nations who are our natural allies in favor of strongmen, dictators, and tyrants.

The Republican Party has been taken over by MAGA. Its leader, Donald Trump, refuses to promise adherence to our constitutional election system. Instead, he has said if he wins, it will be the last election we ever need to have. On July 26, 2024, Turning Point Action sponsored the Believers' Summit in West Palm Beach, Florida. At the event, in closing remarks, Trump implored his supporters to vote “just this time” and promised them that if he won, after this they “won't have to vote anymore.” His exact words also included the statement that if they vote for him this November, “in four years, you don't have to vote again. We'll have it fixed so good, you're not gonna have to vote.”

If Trump loses, he has threatened violence or predicted it as an incentive to his followers. On March 17, 2024 at a rally in Vandalia, Ohio, he said “Now, if I don't get elected, it's going to be a bloodbath for the whole—that's gonna be the least of it,” he added. “It's going to be a bloodbath for the country. That will be the least of it...”

There are a lot more reasons to believe that our constitutional government is under attack from MAGA and its candidate for President, Donald Trump. The composition of the U.S. Supreme Court is one of the battleground fronts. It is already filled with MAGA Republicans who have turned the U.S. Constitution on its head by saying that presidents are entitled to immunity from prosecution for crimes while in office. For decades before this decision, I heard that no one is above the law. For centuries, the U.S. has prided itself on a justice system that applies equally to all. But the MAGA Supreme Court has distorted the law to protect Donald Trump. And we are all in grave danger now of the further erosion of our Constitutional system of government.

Our delegate is just one small voice in this political atmosphere. But it is OUR voice. Here are reasons to vote Blue—meaning for the Democrat Ed Propst.

**1** He's the best candidate. I say that because he's smart, hard-working and most importantly, has the support from sectors that will enable him to handle the job in the best

way for the CNMI. Kilili, our current delegate, has endorsed him. Arnold Palacios, our current governor, has endorsed him. He has endorsements from Lino Olopai, Tina Sablan, Nola Kileleman Hix, and others. It is this depth of experience in our community and especially the support of Kilili with his years of experience as delegate that provide a strong foundation that Ed can build on to succeed for all of us.

**2** None of the other candidates are right for the job this time. Kimberly King-Hinds is well educated but as a Republican she will not be able to stand up to MAGA. She's not going to withstand the pressure from the powerful in her own party. She'll vote with them and that will not be for or with the CNMI. Jim Rayphand and John Oliver Gonzales are intelligent, but neither has the supportive backing and team for success that compares to Ed Propst's.

**3** When it comes to justice, we need a strong constitutional government. This means checks and balances. A vote for a republican in the current atmosphere is a vote for MAGA and the Heritage Foundation's 900-page plan for Project 2025 that includes hamstringing our federal government and putting the burden on states and local governments. The MAGA/Republicans are anti-science, anti-education, and anti-free press because an uninformed population is easier to control by a dictator than an educated, informed population.

The Project 2025 plan embraces these philosophies. For example, anti-science is anti-knowledge about climate change. The plan is to limit NOAA and the National Weather Service to data gathering and to prohibit and prevent predictive aspects of their work. They can get data, but can't analyze it or share it. Where will the CNMI be without accurate weather service predictions? This is just one example—but a critical one. Who is supporting challenging and removing books from libraries? Not Democrats—only Republicans, and mostly MAGA. We love our CNMI public libraries! What happens under the Project 2025 plan to NAP and Medicaid? Tighter restrictions, fewer people qualifying, reduced or capped benefits. In our poor economy, these safety nets are more important than ever. The Heritage Foundation plan also calls for eliminating Head Start, which is very important for our children's success here, and offers some working parents help with child care. Other Project 2025 plans include defunding public broadcasting (publicly supported TV and NPR radio), ending student debt relief, and of course, lower taxes for the wealthiest. The Heritage Foundation is MAGA Republican. Its plans are exactly what Trump and his selected and appointed officials will embrace and try to use to reshape America. The strongest coordinated effort we can raise against this effort is to be united with Democrats. I don't think Jim Rayphand or John Oliver Gonzales would support these MAGA/Republican, Heritage Foundation, Project 2025 plans. So, would they align with Democrats? Then why not just vote blue? That is the best choice this year for the CNMI.

If we want to save our constitutional government and get the help we need for the CNMI, we need to vote blue and elect Ed Propst as our next delegate.

**Jane Mack**  
Via email



## PSS' EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM

## 20 years of serving the Tinian community

In expressing its gratitude to Tinian residents, the Early Intervention Program of the Public School System has reaffirmed its dedication to carrying on its free early detection services to infants, toddlers, and their families which they have been providing for the last 20 years.

"Early intervention has always collaborated with Tinian Public Health through the Immunization Program for the last 20 years. We thank you for being our outreach on the



PSS Education Commissioner Dr. Lawrence F. Camacho, Early Intervention Program director Robin Palacios, Early Intervention Special Instruction teacher Peter Mendiola, and Family Partnership advocate Peter Soalabai gather together with acting Tinian Public Health resident director Gizelle Ablan, Tinian Public Health-Immunization Program's Tessa Diaz, and Tinian Health Center nurse Rejean Nuyda.

island of Tinian to get our kids in (to our services). When kids get referred, they are evaluated, and eventually are provided with all necessary support services to ensure they are able to receive uninterrupted learning opportunities from the Public School System," Early Intervention Program director Robin Palacios said in her recent meeting with her Tinian partners.

The Early Intervention Program provides for free early detection services for infants and toddlers with development delays. Its services form part of the federal statute, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, which in 1986, was amended to include said program for infants and toddlers and their families. It was known as Part C of IDEA.

Palacios was joined by Education Commissioner Dr. Lawrence F. Camacho during its Oct. 16 meeting with Tinian partners, which was followed by outreach to parents and families.

The PSS EI Program has been providing monthly services to infants and toddlers, in particular, assisting the developmental needs at no cost to families. These include infants and toddlers with Down syndrome, deafness, autism, and other developmental disabilities.

"We thank you for opening your doors to us to serve our children through our EI Program," said Camacho in expressing his appreciation for Tinian Public Health.

**Ecosystem of support**

Camacho and Palacios met with Gizelle Ablan, acting resident Tinian health director, Tessa Diaz of the Tinian immunization program, and Tinian nurse Rejean Nuyda. Also joining them were EI Program specialists Peter Mendiola and Nace Soalabai.

The education chief described the partnership between PSS, through various programs like the EI Program, with government agencies and programs as an "ecosystem of support."

"This program is very important for everybody in our community, not just for PSS. It is about preparing our child for the new life that she or he is going to have. Our Early Intervention Program services are there during the critical early learning years of every child and at an age level that our schools are ready to welcome them as learners," Camacho told the program's Tinian partners.

"It is hard for us at PSS to make it possible without your support. Beyond that, I am also grateful to all of our health centers who focus on our children, by supporting and partnering with our EI

Program, to help them with their healthcare and development care needs," Camacho added.

"What we have been doing for the past 20 years is part of the ecosystem of support: our government partners who assist us in taking care of our children's health and well-being for them to be able to come to our schools to learn," Camacho added.

**Outreach, parent session**

Camacho, Palacios, and the EI Program specialists also held home visitations and outreach, reinforcing the program's "Child Find and Public Awareness" activities. This was to ensure that parents, including new parents, are aware that there are programs provided for free for early detection and for development care of infants and toddlers.

This was followed by a parent input session on Oct. 17. Participants were provided with information on 8 Evidence Based Practices or EBPs to help young children increase language and literacy skills. The EBPs are strategies that are implemented with all children who receive early intervention services.

The Tinian outreach was able to sign up 28 participants, including parents, childcare providers, and community members. This is yet again the largest participation for Tinian stakeholders. The event was facilitated by early intervention providers, along with technical assistance from Guam CEDDERS. The team also met with community partners such as DYS, Team Koka, the Library, and Tinian Health Center.

**'Thank you'**

Ablan, the acting Tinian resident health director, said PSS' Early Intervention Program has been a partner for their outreach work.

"Thank you for being a strong partner in our outreach work," Ablan said.

She has also asked Camacho on the possibility of expanding this partnership by allowing the Tinian Public Health Program to conduct outreach to middle and high school students.

"One of the gaps we are trying to fill is the aspect of the (family life and life skills) program. We have our own program, and our target population is from the middle to high school level," Ablan said.

Camacho said PSS will support Tinian Health Center's program: "I welcome you to our campus to help promote your program which supports our students' education." (PR)



My passion has always been cooking. I'd always end up in my friend's kitchen with their mom or their grandma and kind of look at what they're doing.

- MONIQUE AMANI  
MoSa's Co-Owner



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# The cyclical nature of business

HERMAN'S MODERN BAKERY

Herman's Modern Bakery's Airport Road/Chalan Tun Herman Pan location circa 1990.

By RACQUEL H. FLOYD  
raxfloyd@gmail.com  
CORRESPONDENT

*Congratulations*  
**Herman's Modern Bakery for 80 years!**  
**Your legacy continues to shine bright.**



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**T**he bakery business has its ups and downs, with busy periods during retail store procurement and slow-downs during slow seasons as explained by Juan “Pan” Guerrero, Herman’s Modern Bakery CEO/president from 1972-2014.

“In the bakery business, you always expect that there’s an uphill and the downhill. When the business buys the retail stores, you know, it means that they’re busy. When you see a slowdown in the procurement of bakery products at the retail store, then, you know, we’re in the slow season. There are also indicators like before we had the garment industry, we used to produce a lot, those days are gone. A good indicator actually is also McDonald’s. If they’re pushing their specials, it’s an indication that the economy is good. Actually, people continue to eat regardless of how slow or how good the economy is. People may watch what they spend, but regardless, they still continue to eat,” explained Guerrero. Guerrero said Herman’s Modern Bakery prides itself with 80 years in the bakery industry as he emphasized its long-term practices as sustaining the business. “Basically, even in the bakery business, the more you produce, the more you do the same thing, the better you perform. I always believe that you know when you first put out a product that it’s not going to hit the market running, you need to build a product so that you refine it. When you refine it, people eventually will discover that it’s a good product. So, people will buy the product. It’s not something because you offer it. We make good products because we use good raw materials. We don’t substitute raw materials. When we buy, and we know

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From the very first loaf of bread to the countless cakes that have brought smiles to our customers, your belief in us has made all the difference. Each moment we've shared – whether it's a friendly chat at the counter or a special order for a celebration – has been a cherished memory.

Thank you for being a part of our story. We look forward to continuing this delicious journey with you for many more years to come!

With all our appreciation,

**The Staff, Management and Family of  
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HERMAN'S MODERN BAKERY

An undated photo of the Guerrero siblings, from left standing, Noreen DLG, Joseph LeePan T. Guerrero, Herman T. Guerrero, Rudolfo T. Guerrero, and Florencio T. Guerrero. From left seated, Margarita G. Sablan, Jesus T. Guerrero, Agnes G. Archibald, and Annie G. Hayes. Kneeling is Juan Pan T. Guerrero.

Wishing Herman's Modern Bakery  
a wonderful 80th anniversary!  
Thank you for your enduring commitment  
and impact in our community!



BUSINESS

From page 10

exactly what we want. Unlike other bakeries. They don't care. I don't think that they care, because they buy what's available in the market."

Furthermore, he explained

the importance of refining products and using high-quality ingredients as he discussed the special flour they created and their key supply chain management by mentioning their efforts to avoid running out of flour by anticipating shipments.

See BUSINESS on Page 13

From the Staff & Management

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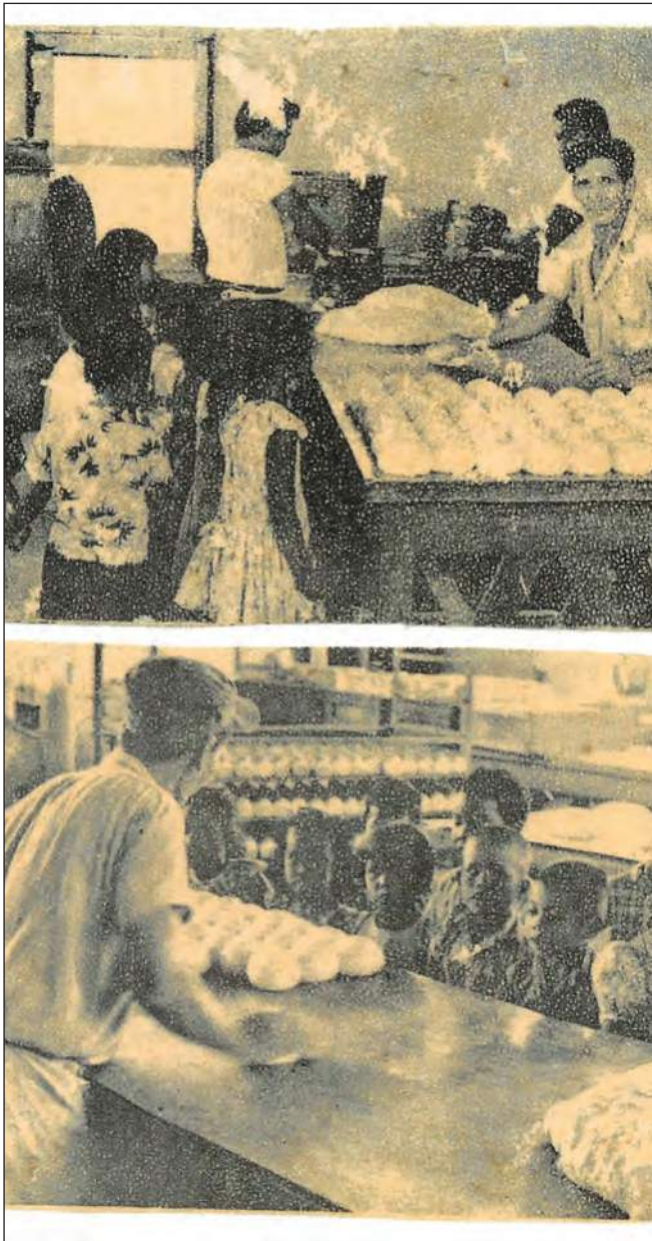
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HERMAN'S MODERN BAKERY

Herman's Modern Bakery founders Herman R. and Maria T. Guerrero in this undated photo.





HERMAN'S MODERN BAKERY

At the original Herman's Modern Bakery in Chalan Kanoa with students.

## BUSINESS

From page 12

"We buy directly from the mill, we're not buying from a wholesaler, like there are wholesalers here that carry flour, all right, they just store

flour at the back. But what I see, most of them is there's Korean flour. We buy from two suppliers that produce the same flour mix, one in the U.S., and there's one in Australia. So, you know, we have time, so we work with our suppliers."

Meanwhile, Guerrero talked about the diversification of products and marketing strategy as he described the improvements and innovations over the years when he took over as president in 1972.

He said their product offerings expanded from a handful

to over a hundred products today as Herman's Modern Bakery's capabilities evolved, enabling the production of various baked goods.

"You can tell what the improvements are with what you see on the products. We now

See BUSINESS on Page 14

**CELEBRATING HERMAN'S MODERN BAKERY 80 YEARS 1944 - 2024**

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CHRYSTAL MARINO

A sign to celebrate the 80th year of service, stands outside the Herman's Bakery in Dandan in October 2024.



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HERMAN'S MODERN BAKERY

An undated file photo of Herman's Modern Bakery Airport Road/Chalan Tun Herman Pan branch.

## BUSINESS

From page 13

offer more than a hundred different products. When I started, probably you can count using just two hands the most that we make. Yeah, you can count. Now you can't. What you see not even represents 100% of the products that we sell. That only represents what they make for today. Also, when we produce, we alternate. It's not always the same product every day."

Guerrero added that production varies due to the islands' limited market size, adding that small batch production creates challenges in finding consistent buyers and that retail stores play a crucial role in product distribution.

When asked about the performance of their retail distribution, Guerrero said that the distribution of products is essential for operating a large business and explained the need for retail outlets to reach a wider market.

"We need the distribution, otherwise it's going to be hard to operate a big, unique (business). You need to distribute your products so that people have the opportunity to buy them where they shop."

Experience also helps in deciding which products to

distribute and sell, added Guerrero.

"We decide what to fill in the shelves based on our experience. We know that this store can sell these types of products. If I can sell that particular product in the retail store, then I am OK."

Guerrero said product expansions involve the increase in the number of employees and at Herman's Bakery the number of employees has grown significantly since 1972 due to different activities and operations requiring specialized teams.

Each team has specific functions and responsibilities to keep the operation running smoothly.

"Before, I don't think we had more than 10 people, now we are in the hundreds. Because we have different activities, different operations. We have the kitchen, we have the sales, we have the production, and we have the school lunch program."

Furthermore, Guerrero discussed the fierceness of the competition in the bakery business to the point that simply opening a bakery and waiting for customers is not enough.

It was 10 years ago when Guerrero retired and his son, Michael, is currently managing the family business.



# Herman's Modern Bakery's foundational principle: To help everyone in need

By **RACQUEL H. FLOYD**

raxfloyd@gmail.com  
CORRESPONDENT

**H**erman's Modern Bakery Inc. general manager Michael Guerrero said the biggest bakery in the CNMI wouldn't have survived this long—80 years—without the company's foundational principle of helping everyone in need.

"One of the most important lessons I've learned from my father, Juan Pan, and his siblings—who have all contributed to Herman's Modern Bakery at different times—is the importance of

helping others," he said.

According to Guerrero, this piece of advice is something he will never forget, as it's a value that his family extremely holds.

"Whether it's supporting our employees, serving our customers, or giving back to the community, this principle has been the foundation of how we manage the business. It reminds me that success is not just about profit, but about the positive impact we make on those around us," he said.

Guerrero was appointed general manager in October 2022, but he started from the

bottom, so to speak, as his first job at Herman's Modern Bakery was as a server when he was in high school.

After high school, he went to San Diego State University, then California State East Bay, before enrolling at the culinary School of Kapiolani Community College.

"I returned to work here in December of 2013 as the operations manager. A few months after that I also took on the assistant general manager position, when my aunt, Annie Hayes, became the general manager."

In retrospect, Guerrero  
**See PRINCIPLE on Page 16**



RACQUEL FLOYD

Herman's Modern Bakery Inc. general manager Michael Guerrero with his father, Juan Pan T. Guerrero, who served as president and CEO of the family business from 1972-2014.

**Cheers to 80 years of  
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HERMAN'S MODERN BAKERY

Oven man Ranjit Bairagi, a Herman's Modern Bakery employee since 1998.

## PRINCIPLE

From page 15

knew that he would end up working in their family-owned business.

"As a kid, all of my first cousins and I knew that there was a chance we might end up working at Herman's Modern Bakery. It was always a part of our lives, and we were aware of its importance to the family. However, I didn't have a set plan to manage the business one day. I just happened to be in the right place at the right time. The opportunity

to lead came naturally, and I embraced it when it presented itself."

Guerrero expressed his gratitude to his team's hard work and strength as challenges can be inevitable.

"Every day brings its own set of challenges here at Herman's Modern Bakery. Whether it's managing production demands, adapting to market changes, or ensuring the highest quality of our products, we continuously face new hurdles. However, I am incredibly grateful to have a wonderful team by my side. With their dedication and hard

work, we are able to confront and overcome these challenges together. It's the strength of our team and their commitment that allows us to keep moving forward and thriving as a business."

Looking ahead, his focus is to bring in more efficiency on their production processes and expand their brand across the region.

"By adopting new technologies and streamlining operations, we can continue to meet the growing demands of our customers while maintaining the quality that Herman's

See PRINCIPLE on Page 17

# Happy 80th Anniversary

**Herman's Modern Bakery!**  
A legacy of greatness and a future full of promise!



From the Staff and  
Management of





PRINCIPLE

From page 16

Modern Bakery is known for. Expanding our reach will allow us to share our baked goods with more communities, creating new opportunities for growth. My hope is that this progress will become the legacy of our generation, paving the way for the next chapter of Herman's Modern Bakery."

As Herman's Modern Bakery celebrates its 80th year, Guerrero and his team are filled with deep gratitude and appreciation for the unwavering support the community has given them throughout the decades.

"Your (community) loyalty

has allowed us to continue our passion for delivering fresh, quality baked goods and being a part of your most cherished moments. For eight decades, Herman's Modern Bakery has been a staple in this community, and it's all because of you—our dedicated customers who have trusted us to bring warmth to your homes and smiles to your tables. Your trust, patronage, and support have been the foundation of our success, and we are humbled by your continued belief in us. Thank you very much, *un dang-kulu na si'yu'us ma'ase, ghilisow, salamat po, sulang, kammagar, āpanākē ānēka dhan'yabāda, fēicháng aānxiè, maeu gamsahabnida,*

See PRINCIPLE on Page 18



HERMAN'S MODERN BAKERY  
Herman's Modern Bakery's production floor at the Chalan Tun Herman Pan Location circa 1999.



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The Herman's Modern Bakery Inc. staff at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral during a company event.

HERMAN'S MODERN BAKERY

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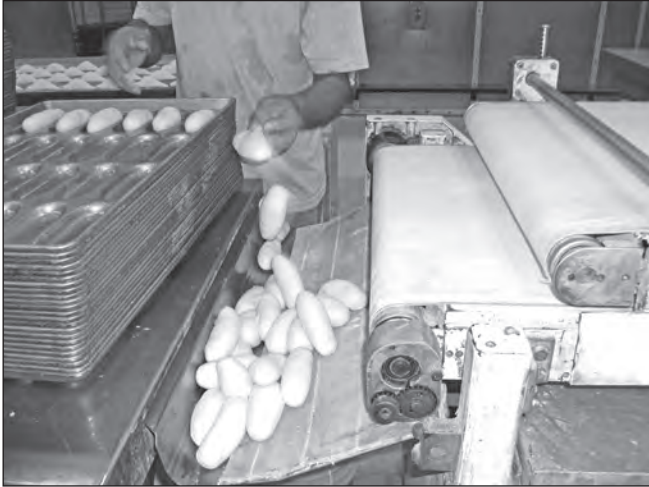
From page 17

for standing by us for the last 80 years. We look forward to serving you for many more years to come, as we continue this journey together with the same love, care, and commitment that Herman's Modern Bakery was built on."



HERMAN'S MODERN BAKERY

Herman's Modern Bakery helps on the production floor circa 1999.



HERMAN'S MODERN BAKERY

Herman's Modern Bakery's production floor at the Chalan Tun Herman Pan location circa 1999.



# Congratulations

**Herman's Modern Bakery**  
on your 80 years of sweet success and baking excellence!

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FROM THE MANAGEMENT & STAFF OF

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## HERMAN'S MODERN BAKERY'S LONGEST-SERVING EMPLOYEE Ernesto Lineses reflects on 45 years of service

By NHORLEEN BITCO-LILLES  
Special to Saipan Tribune

Ernesto Lineses' journey is marked by dedication and a passion for baking. Growing up in the Philippines, he discovered his love for the craft while working at a local bakery. This experience ultimately led him to Saipan, where he joined Herman's Modern Bakery on March 3, 1979, at the age of 28. Despite initial uncertainties about island life, Lineses embraced his new role as a baker, drawing on his past experience to begin a career that would span over four decades.

Now, at 74 years old, Lineses looks back on his long and fulfilling career. This year, Herman's Modern Bakery proudly celebrates its 80th anniversary, marking eight decades of serving the CNMI community with delicious baked goods and fostering a family-like atmosphere for its employees. For Lineses,

See **ERNESTO** on Page 22



HERMAN'S MODERN BAKERY

In 2023, after 44 years of service, Herman's Modern Bakery baker Ernesto Lineses retired from his position, but he has since returned on a part-time basis because he simply missed his old job.

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# 80 *years*

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**ERNESTO**

From page 20

this milestone is particularly meaningful as he reflects on the role he has played in helping the bakery grow and succeed.

"My congratulations to our company, Herman's Mod-

ern Bakery, for reaching the milestone of 80 years. This anniversary is something I treasure, having been part of this organization for 45 years," said Lineses.

"This milestone is the result of the continuous hard work and effort of the Pan (Guerrero) family and their employees. Through coordination, co-

operation, and working hand in hand, side by side, we have accomplished what we all desired, and here we are, reaching the 80th year."

Reflecting on the challenging years that the bakery and the islands as a whole have faced, Lineses states, "Though we faced several challenges over the past years—natural

calamities, super typhoons Soudelor and Yutu, and the COVID-19 pandemic—Herman's Modern Bakery still stands strong and continues to serve the public."

Indeed, these challenges have tested the resilience of the bakery. Yet, through teamwork and determination, the Guerrero family, along with

Lineses and his colleagues, successfully navigated these obstacles together.

Throughout his career, Herman's Modern Bakery was not just a place of employment; it was where he forged lifelong friendships, learned invaluable skills, and found his professional calling. The Guerrero family treated their employees

like family, offering support during tough times. Lineses always expressed his admiration for how they genuinely cared for their workers, noting how they were always there to provide help in times of need.

Thanks to his strong work ethic and passion for baking, Lineses quickly stood out to

See **ERNESTO** on Page 23



HERMAN'S MODERN BAKERY

Ernesto Lineses joined Herman's Modern Bakery on March 3, 1979, at the age of 28.



HERMAN'S MODERN BAKERY

Ernesto Lineses greets guests in this undated file photo.



**Wishing  
Herman's Modern  
Bakery a joyful  
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From the staff and management

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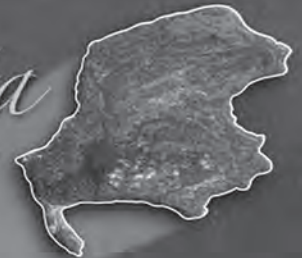
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**ERNESTO***From page 22*

his superiors. His dedication and skill earned him an early promotion to production supervisor. By 1989, just 10 years after starting, he was promoted and placed in charge of the whole production, a role that reflected his dependability and the trust he had earned from the Guerrero family, owners of Herman's Modern Bakery.

Lineses loved the strong sense of community and camaraderie that flourished within the company. He often remarked that if he could turn back time, he would gladly relive his years working for Herman's Modern Bakery all over again. The respect, kindness, and support he received from the management were among the reasons he stayed so long.

In 2023, after 44 years of service, Lineses retired from his position. However, his connection to the bakery was too strong to break completely. He asked if he could return to work on a part-time basis—not for the money, but for the sheer joy and fulfillment that came from doing what he loved. Now, he is in his 45th year with them.

For Lineses, Herman's Modern Bakery is more than just his workplace; it is the

only employer he has ever had on Saipan, and it became a place where he found not just a career but a home away from home. He remarked that he has stayed on Saipan and at Herman's Modern Bakery for most of his life—longer than he did in the Philippines. His story serves as a testament to the power of loyalty, dedication, and the lasting impact that a company can have on an individual's life.

"I am lucky to be part of this company as we celebrate 80 years. I am very thankful for the chance and opportunity to work with them. I wish everyone well and encourage continued effort in making Herman's Modern Bakery even more effective and helping it grow in the years to come."

"More power to Herman's Modern Bakery, to the Guerrero family, the employees, and the entire organization," he adds.

Lineses' story is a celebration of the quiet, unsung heroes of the workforce—people who work behind the scenes but whose contributions are essential to the success of the company and the community. As Herman's Modern Bakery celebrates its 80th anniversary, Lineses continues to be a valued part of the team, and his story is an inspiration for future generations of employees and the community.



## Herman's Modern Bakery at 80:

*A legacy built on dedication, innovation, and excellence!*



From the management and staff of



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By CHRYSTAL MARINO  
chrystal\_marino@saipantribune.com  
CORRESPONDENT

That little red cloth bag. It's a common site at the check-in counter at the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport. Usually filled to its brim with sweet goodness from the CNMI's very own Herman's Modern Bakery. This bag, whether it's a gift for family overseas, or a delicious souvenir, you are sure to get a glimpse of somewhere on that airport trolley or in bags as both visitors and former and current residents depart Saipan.

As someone who had the privilege to travel around for several years myself, I cannot deny the staple that is Herman's Modern Bakery bread. Of the 13 countries I've visited, five of which I lived in, you can't quite find an equal match to the bread we CNMI locals have been raised with. It's the color, taste, and texture that over the span of 80 years, has adorned our breakfast tables on a daily basis, been our party potluck on a tight budget, and has even earned a special spot on our Thanksgiving and Christmas tables.

As many CNMI residents have relocated over the years, no matter the reason, whenever coming for a visit to their hometown, it has become a



Smiling as they work, Herman's Modern Bakery's Winona Santos and Kobe Camacho help provide the welcoming vibe to the bakery in Dandan.

# The travels of the little red cloth bag

tradition, and for some a mandatory practice, to get some warm Herman's Modern Bakery bread before leaving. It's just something in that recipe that no matter where we are, a bite will bring us back home. Nostalgia to carefree times, laughter with friends, and fam-

ily prayer around a meager but meaningful table. Herman's Modern Bakery helped provide that transporting flavor. When I returned to Saipan, during my many trips, I recognized that this was not just the sensation of one person but many individuals, especially

those who live away from the CNMI. I'd observe that to "Get Herman's" was a part of the checklist before departing. Whether it's personal, or on a special request for a grandma, an uncle, or a parent staying abroad.

See TRAVELS on Page 25



Ana Torres shows the wide variety of breads and pastries made with care by Herman's Modern Bakery's.



CELEBRATING  
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YEARS  
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a joyous 80th anniversary!  
Thank you for your invaluable legacy!*

From the management and staff of

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TRAVELS

From page 24

In light of Herman's Modern Bakery turning 80, I reached out to some former residents of Saipan, currently living away, to share what makes Herman's Modern Bakery bread so special to them.

"I grew up with Herman's Modern Bakery sweet bread. In my household, it was a staple. It was something that we've always had with our morning coffee or even just as a snack," said Liana Louis. "When I visit, I do plan on bringing bread back home with me. I left Saipan September 2019, and I currently stay in Yigo, Guam."

She shared that Herman's Modern Bakery bread is unique in terms of taste and texture.

"There's really nothing like it here. In Guam, the bread is not the same. There's really just nothing like something that you grew up with. There's really no competition. When you know it's good it's good."

She shared that for her Herman's Modern Bakery's bread was inviting, fresh, and nostalgic. "I believe that Herman's Modern Bakery offers much more than just bread and pastry to the community. There's a friendship, a camaraderie,



CHRYSTAL MARINO  
Herman's Modern Bakery's Bakery red bags are a common carry-on baggage at the airport.



CHRYSTAL MARINO  
It's bread and pastry galore at the Herman's Modern Bakery's Bakery in Dandan.

a feeling of family, and that's really the feeling that you get when you visit the shop or the bakery. You feel like it's home. It's a place where you can depend on, that what you're looking for in the bread, is there."

Louis shared that her experience at Herman's Modern Bakery has always been satisfying. "I do have a lot of fond memories growing up with Herman's Modern Bakery." She shared that, aside from

See TRAVELS on Page 26

Happy 80th Anniversary

**Herman's Modern Bakery!**

Your decades of baking have left a lasting impact on our taste buds and hearts!

FROM THE MANAGEMENT & STAFF OF

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Celebrating 80 years of Herman's Modern Bakery's achievements and looking forward to many more!

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# Congratulations on 80 years of creating smiles.



We're proud to celebrate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of a beloved local business, Herman's Modern Bakery. Thanks for making our community a sweeter place.

boh.com   
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Bank of Hawai'i

## TRAVELS

From page 25

the bread, she and her family would get sweets for their peers.

"We're always getting birthday cakes there. We're getting pastries for friends, for teachers. There are so many memories that I have from there. Specifically, aside from being on the receiving end... it's being able to ask them to design a cake that I want for my family and friends and being able to give it and see the reaction. It's one of the funniest, best feelings ever."

Sherese Saures Apat is another CNMI resident living abroad and she shared her fondest memories of Herman's Modern Bakery.

"I can remember when I was just a little girl of how I grew up eating Herman's Modern Bakery baked goods. I would always see my grandparents, parents, and family buy it almost every week and we would have it on our kitchen table ready to be devoured every time."

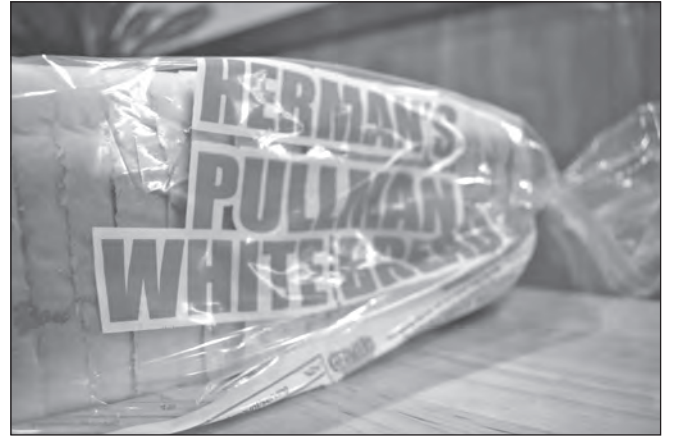
Apat, who also now resides in Guam, shared that it has been six years, since she relocated, and she still hasn't quite found that direct match to Herman's Modern Bakery's bread.

"There's no bakery I've found here where I reside



CHRYSTAL MARINO

The Herman's Modern Bakery entrance in Dandan is both a familiar and welcome site to those seeking solid baked goods.



CHRYSTAL MARINO

Herman's Pullman White Bread is as iconic as the 80-year-old bakery itself.



CHRYSTAL MARINO

Aside from just bread, the Herman's Bakery provides a yummy selection of pastries at its branches in Garapan and Dandan.



CHRYSTAL MARINO

Herman's Modern Bakery offers fluffy bread of every kind at its Dandan location.

that's even close to the childhood Herman's Modern Bakery bread that I'm familiar with, nothing comes close to how tasty Herman's baked goods are. That's why every chance I get, whether family members come visit or if I ever traveled again to Saipan, it's a must for me to get Herman's Bakery goods. It's just so good and worth getting every time."

"Herman's Bakery not only offers the community awesome baked goods but they have been serving the community since 1944. They have really put in the effort, and together with their quality recipes, their baked goods

are still the best until this day!" Apat shared. "I love it. It's just always been that good. I will always remember and cherish how it made my childhood memories more fun and memorable. I can say I won't stop eating Herman's Modern Bakery goods because it has always been unique!"

And, so if you ask me, the travels of the little red cloth bag will continue. Thank you, Herman's Modern Bakery for staying true to the taste and textures that many of us grew up with. A bite that, no matter where we are, will always bring us back home. Happy 80th anniversary Herman's Modern Bakery.



# Congratulations

on reaching this remarkable  
80th milestone! Herman's Modern Bakery  
continues to bring joy with every bite.

From the management and staff of



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PMB 955 P.O. BOX 10000, SAIPAN, MP 96950

Phone: 1-670-235-2883 • Email: edenfguillo@yahoo.com





# Congratulations

on 80 years of flavorsome achievements, Herman's Modern Bakery!  
Reflecting on the journey, celebrating the milestones, and  
looking forward to the future with continued growth, success,  
gratitude, and excitement in the Marianas.



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Tel. (670) 235-8640



Beach Road, San Jose  
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# Cheers

TO 80 YEARS OF  
HERMAN'S MODERN BAKERY!  
A TESTAMENT TO  
YOUR HARD WORK, VISION,  
AND DEDICATION!

From Management and Staff of

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Celebrating 80 years of  
excellence and innovation at  
**HERMAN'S MODERN BAKERY!**  
Here's to many more decades of success!



From the management and staff of





## 2024 GOVERNOR'S HUMANITIES AWARDEES

## Arriola, Johnson, Barcinas, Castro, Kaliga take plums

By SKYLEE SANTOS  
santosskylee@gmail.com  
CORRESPONDENT

This year's 2024 Governor's Humanities awardees were Dr. Theresa Arriola taking the award for Research and Publications, Elsie San Nicholas Johnson for Outstanding Humanities Teacher within the Classroom Environment, Jonas M. Barcinas taking Outstanding Humanities Teacher in a Non-Classroom Setting, John S. Castro took the award for Preservation of CNMI History, Dina Kaliga taking Preservation of Traditional Cultural Practices, and Don Farrel taking the Lifetime Achievement in the Humanities.

The event was held at the Kensington Hotel's ground floor hall last Friday, celebrating excellence in the field of humanities across various categories and recognizing individuals and projects that have made significant contributions to cultural preservation, education, and the arts in the Northern Marianas. The event filled with vibrant decorations and familiar faces among the crowd created a happy environment.

The evening commenced with the council chair Gretchen A. Smith starting with opening remarks and setting the tone for the ceremony by emphasizing the importance of the humanities in preserving the cultural heritage in the CNMI. Smith recited a poem by Arielle Taitano in her speech.

Smith herself recited a poem by Arielle Taitano, "Weavers Were The Fist to Know" setting the tone for the ceremony. She emphasized the importance of the humanities in preserving the cultural heritage in the Marianas. The beautiful poem entranced the audience and gave the setting a tone relative to the theme.

Also reciting their poems, winners from the Sengebau Poetry Competition were invited to the event to perform their original works once more in celebration to the event. From Mount Carmel School, Jessiana Tenorio performed her original piece "Taya Chamorro" with Da'ok Academy's duo poets, Daniel Taisakan and Princess Debengek performing "Who Are We." In their cultural attires, Taisakan and Debengek gave a show of how their culture is just as important to them as they once more recited their piece with

heartfelt and in respect to the event's occasion.

The event also held a silent auction in the back of the venue with beautiful artifacts and jewelry crafted by local artists. Including vouchers such as a three-month membership at Gold's Gym. Auctioneers would later find out if they'd won by the end of the night or they'd get contacted later to receive their prize.

Present at the event was Gov. Arnold I. Palacios as he gave his speech as a special guest highlighting the event's celebration and giving his view on the general topic of culture. Palacios presented the awards to the awardees alongside board member, Kimberly C. Mendiola.

The ceremony ended with a pre-recorded closing remark speech from vice chair, Dr. Bobby JA Cruz who commended all awardees and emphasized the importance of the continuation of preserving and promoting the cultural heritage of the Northern Marianas.

In his speech, Barcinas underlined the critical moment the community faces in ensuring the survival of its cultural practices. "Now, more than ever, we must value, preserve, and use our language and cultural heritage," he said. "Together, by working in partnership, we can help children appreciate, value, and—hopefully—speak their mother tongue."

His speech highlighted the importance of preserving indigenous languages and cultural heritage, emphasizing the responsibility of parents and the community in teaching and reinforcing these traditions. He mentioned the collaboration between families and educational institutions in ensuring children not only learn but also embrace their native language.

Barcinas encouraged everyone to take proactive steps to preserve the native language, urging parents to use it daily and advocating for a collective effort to keep cultural heritage alive. "We must take responsibility. Speak to your children in our language. Let them hear, feel, and know how beautiful, powerful and unique it is."


In an interview with Johnson, she mentioned how she focuses on passing down Chamorro culture and language to the younger generation through classroom initia-

See ARRIOLA on Page 31



SKYLEE SANTOS

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council board stands together with 2024 Governor's Humanities awardees, from left, Lucia Blanco-Maratita, awardee Dr. Theresa Arriola, Samuel M. McPhetres, Gretchen A. Smith, awardee Dina Kaliga, Robert C. Harrell, Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, awardee Jonas Barcinas, council executive director Leo G. Pangelinan, Lynette L. Villagomez, awardee Elsie San Nicholas Johnson, Education Commissioner Dr. Lawrence F. Camacho, awardee Don Farrell, Dr. Norma S. Ada, awardee John S. Castro, Leonard Leo, and Kimberly C. Mendiola.


**COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY**  
**CNMI GOVERNMENT**

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**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**  
**PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-005-25**  
**SUBMISSION DATE: NOVEMBER 11, 2024: 4:00 P.M.**

---

**"CPA WEBSITE UPGRADE, DEVELOPMENT, AND MANAGEMENT"**

THE PROPOSAL PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AT THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) ACCOUNTING OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BEGINNING OCTOBER 11, 2024. AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF \$100.00 SHALL BE PAID TO CPA BEFORE A BIDDER MAY OBTAIN THE BID PACKAGE. PAYMENTS SHALL BE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, OR CREDIT CARD.


PROPOSERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "CPA WEBSITE UPGRADE, DEVELOPMENT, AND MANAGEMENT (RFP-005-25)" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 4:00 P.M., NOVEMBER 11, 2024. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

**THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION \$40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.**

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS OR PROPOSALS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

**LEO B. TUDELA**  
Executive Director

Date: October 11, 2024


**COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY**  
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND Floor Arrival Bldg.  
 PO BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP • 96950-1055  
 Phone: (1-670) 237-6500/1 Fax: (1-670) 234-5962  
 E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@cpa.gov.mp Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

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**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**  
**PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-006-25**  
**PASSENGER BOARDING BRIDGES PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE SERVICE AND REPAIRS**  
**FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority ("the CPA") is accepting sealed proposals, subject to the terms and conditions of this Request for Proposal ("the RFP") and other contract provisions, for awarding a contract to provide maintenance, service, and repairs to its three (3) Passenger Boarding Bridges (PBB) at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

The Proposal Package is available for pick-up beginning October 18, 2024, at the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building, Saipan International Airport, upon a non-refundable payment of \$100.00 in cash, cashier's check, or by credit card. Bidders must submit all required documents listed in the RFP Package. All responses to this RFP shall take into account any and/or all costs that will be charged the proposer awarded for this project. Proposers shall also take into consideration all necessary badging requirements and fees for this project.

A pre-proposal conference will be held at 10:00 a.m., November 08, 2024 at the CPA Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building. The purpose of this conference is to allow potential proposers an opportunity to present questions and obtain clarification relative to any facet of this solicitation. While attendance at this conference will not be a prerequisite to submitting a proposal, proposers who intend to submit a proposal are encouraged to attend. Any site visit may be coordinated with Zachary Reyes of the CPA by calling telephone numbers (670)237-6535. Questions regarding this procurement should be submitted in writing through the CPA Airport Manager via email at frank.duenas@cnmiports.com on or before close of business, November 13, 2024.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Proposal for Preventive Maintenance Service and Repairs of the three (3) Passenger Boarding Bridges, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport/RFP-006-25". One (1) original and two (2) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than **4:00 p.m. Local Time, November 19, 2024**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport. Proposals submitted by facsimile (fax) transmission will not be considered. Any proposals received after the submittal deadline shall be rejected and returned unopened.


The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this RFP; (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid/proposal rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the proposal would not be in the best interest of CPA. The CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would not be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. This RFP shall be executed as per the CPA Procurement Regulations.

**FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY**

**LEO B. TUDELA**  
Executive Director

Date: October 18, 2024


**COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY**  
**CNMI GOVERNMENT**  
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2nd Floor Arrival Bldg.  
 P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1  
 Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962  
 Website: www.cnmiports.com

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**INVITATION FOR BID**  
**PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-002-25**  
**SUBMISSION DATE: NOVEMBER 08, 2024: 2:00 P.M.**

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**"SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF 30 UNITS SELF-CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS"**

THE PROPOSAL PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AT THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) ACCOUNTING OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BEGINNING OCTOBER 09, 2024. AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF \$100.00 SHALL BE PAID TO CPA BEFORE A BIDDER MAY OBTAIN THE BID PACKAGE. PAYMENTS SHALL BE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, OR CREDIT CARD.


PROPOSERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF 30 UNITS SELF-CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS (RFP-002-25)" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., NOVEMBER 08, 2024. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

**THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION \$40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.**

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS OR PROPOSALS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

**LEO B. TUDELA**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DATE: OCTOBER 9, 2024


**DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES**  
**CNMI GOVERNMENT**

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**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**  
**RFP NO.: RFP25-OPD/DPW No. 42500001**  
**SUBMISSION DATE: NOVEMBER 12, 2024 TIME: 10:00 A.M.**

---

**"MULTI-SHREDDER OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL (<https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/>) OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT BLDG NO. 12386, ASCENSION DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

**THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-305, 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.**

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

**/S/ ELIZABETH S. BALAJADIA**  
ACTING DIRECTOR, OPD

**/S/ BRIEN S. NICHOLAS JR.**  
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS



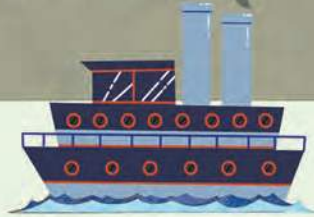
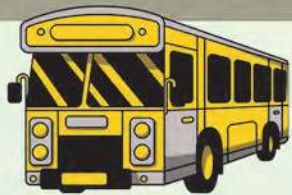
# DIESEL EMISSIONS REDUCTION ACT (DERA)



DERA grants and rebates, administered and awarded by the US EPA, are intended to protect human health and improve air quality by reducing harmful emissions from diesel engines.

The DERA grant releases competitive and non-competitive funding opportunities on a yearly basis. Interested parties may contact the BECQ DEQ Clean Air Program to inquire about equipment eligibility and other program guidelines and requirements.

Selected recipients may receive funding that covers up to 100% of the costs to replace existing diesel-powered vehicles, equipment, or engines!



## WHAT IS DIESEL EXHAUST?

**Diesel is a type of fuel derived from crude oil.**

Diesel exhaust is produced from the burning of diesel fuel in most large engines, including trucks, buses, ships, construction and farm equipment, generators, and in some cars. It is a mixture of gases, vapors, and fine particulates that are harmful to both human health and the environment.



**Short term exposure** to diesel exhaust can cause coughs, headaches, nausea, allergic reactions causing asthma, and irritation of the eyes, nose, throat, and respiratory tract. **Long term exposure** increases the risk for serious health effects such as lung cancer.



## WAYS TO REDUCE YOUR EXPOSURE TO DIESEL EXHAUST

- Limit the amount of time you spend near running engines.
- If diesel fuel is necessary, choose Ultra-Low Sulfur Diesel.
- Service your engines regularly to reduce exhaust fumes. If possible, replace old diesel engines.
- Report excessive diesel smoke to the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality!



2006 Ford New Holland Tractor



2022 John Deere Tractor



## DERA FOR CNMI



- In 2022, the BECQ Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ) applied for and received the DERA State Grant, with the Rota Department of Lands and Natural Resources as the sub-awardee to replace their 2006 Ford New Holland tractor.
- The 2006 Ford New Holland tractor with a Tier 1 engine was replaced by a 2022 John Deere tractor with a Tier 4 engine.
- Tier 4 certified engines meet EPA's highest emission standards by significantly reducing air pollution, specifically emissions of particulate matter (PM) and oxides of nitrogen (NOx) to near zero levels.

For more information, please contact the DEQ Clean Air Program at  
670-664-8512 or email [deq.air@becq.gov.mp](mailto:deq.air@becq.gov.mp)



ARRIOLA

From page 29

tives. They emphasize the importance of practical projects connecting students to ancient and modern aspects of their heritage.

“We did a project on Chamorro culture, where the kids would research the ancient history of the Chamorro and compare it to the modern,” she said.

As a teacher at Kagman High School, Johnson recognizes the decline of the Chamorro language among youth and addresses this by fully immersing students in Chamorro during class, encouraging them to practice at home and through music.

“Since I’m a teacher for high school teaching the Chamorro language, what I do now is I speak to them full-on Chamorro in the classroom,” she said.

In her efforts, she’s noticed change among her students, a positive light, as they learn more Chamorro terms and soon speak in the native tongue back in reply as she encourages her students daily.

“It is very challenging today to try and teach or pass on the generation, or even just the language. Most of the skills we learn are in tune with the language,” she adds.

Speaking to Kaliga, she states how she interprets the culture through a dance group she is a leader of, the Talabogh Women. She underlines the passing down of traditional knowledge and skills, such as dance, food preparation, weaving, and carving, that are critical parts of the Carolinian culture. They focus on hands-on learning and oral traditions passed down from elders.

When asked about her work and achievements, Kaliga states how she trying “to teach the language because it’s dying.”

She mentions how she assembles girls “to pass down the dance and teach them.” Kaliga adds on how she is part of a choir for the church and assists making beats for the music. When asked about cultural traditions, Kaliga mentions the transitions of passing down leadership.

“You know, we have to pass it down... we never know when we are leaving, so it will continue.”

Kaliga has been holding the leadership of the Talabogh Women for the past 25 years, passing down tradition songs and teaching the dance on to the younger generations in the group, ensuring the culture is striving among the youth. When asked about the challenges of teaching about cultural preservation through projects, she stated how “It’s

very challenging today to try and teach or pass on the generation, or even just the language... most of the skills that we learn are in tune with the language. Especially when you’re doing activities such as cooking, weaving, carving.”


In a conversation with Castro, the lack of native dialect among the youth is brought up to which he replies with some ideas. He encourages creative ways to foster cultural engagement such as making a game, “Like, whoever says English when we’re talking gets a penalty, or whoever finds the native word for this gets a reward.”

He further mentions “working for organizations like Historic Preservation Office and now currently working for the Arts Council under the Seafaring Traditions Program... it’s so hard to try and teach culture when there’s no text, there’s no book about it.”

Castro’s message after winning the award was him encouraging practice in the heritage as the culture “is dying, it’s fading.”

Speaking with Farrel, he mentions how winning the award gave him a” kind of relief as if I had really finished, you know, and this was my ultimate, you know, but I still have three more books to finish... it is obviously an

See ARRIOLA on Page 32



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

**COMMONWEALTH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

2390 Beach Road, Oleai  
P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 Fax: (670) 235-7147  
Website: www.developcnmi.com



**NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING**  
**ON AN APPLICATION FOR A QUALIFYING CERTIFICATE**  
**AUTHORIZING THE ABATEMENT AND REBATE**  
**OF CERTAIN CNMI TAXES**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that:

**A. Public hearing.** In accordance with the Investment Incentive Act of 2000, as amended, and pursuant to the rule-making procedures of the Administrative Procedures Act, the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority (CEDA) will conduct a public hearing at the New Cafeteria Building, next to Building D, Marianas High School, Bwaay Lane, Susupe, Saipan, on Wednesday, November 6, 2024, at 5:00 p.m., on the application of J&P Holdings CNMI LLC, Applicant, for a Qualifying Certificate, which request is for tax relief by way of abatement and rebate of CNMI taxes in consideration of Applicant’s proposed \$8,271,600.00 for a new passenger aviation company focusing on interisland transportation. All pursuant to the Investment Incentive Act of 2000, as amended, and as set out in the Applicant’s application for a Qualifying Certificate.

**B. Nature of hearing.** This hearing shall be open to the public. Oral or written statements will be received from anyone wishing to testify thereat, which statement will be incorporated into the records of the hearing.

**C. Further information.** For further information, please contact CEDA at the above telephone numbers or visit its office at the CEDA Building, 2390 Beach Road, Oleai, Saipan.

/s/ Derek T. Sasamoto  
Acting Executive Director

2ND NOTICE OF OPEN AUCTION

Vehicle Features:

- EX-L Sport Utility 4D  
4-Cyl, Turbo 1.5 Liter  
Automatic SUV  
All Wheel Drive  
Push Button Start  
Sun-Roof  
Keyless Entry  
Light Brown Leather Seats  
Power Door Locks  
Power Tailgate Release
- Bluetooth Wireless  
Multi-view Camera



**2020 HONDA CRV (Color: White)**  
**17,392 Miles**  
**Condition: Excellent**  
**MINIMUM BID: \$20,000.00**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the undersigned counsel, Attorney Robert T. Torres (or his designee), for and on behalf of the Bank of Guam, will sell at auction the abovementioned vehicle to the highest bidder on **October 31, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. in the Conference Room at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres in Chalan Kiya.**

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

- Rights and Duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties conducting the auction sale:
  - to withdraw the chattel mortgage (vehicle) listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such chattel mortgage (vehicle) is accepted;
  - to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before the chattel mortgage (vehicle) is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever there; and
  - to reject any and all bids.
- Minimum Bid.** The minimum bid for the sale of the abovementioned vehicle is **\$20,000.00**. No advanced bids will be accepted. The vehicle will be sold to the highest bidder “as is, where is” without any warranties. **Bidders must be present in person at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres, 5960 Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya at 10:00 a.m. to bid.** All bids less than \$20,000.00 are rejected. Any person who registers his/her bid shall provide a valid identification card (valid CNMI Driver’s License or Passport). The winning bidder shall be the person whom the vehicle is confirmed to, if the bid is accepted.
- Payment.** The entire purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. Personal checks /company checks are not accepted. All payments must be made by cash, money order, or cashier’s check only. The Bank of Guam shall release the chattel mortgage to the winning bidder. Failure to make payment will result the winning bidder forfeiting his/her winning bid. The next highest bidder (minimum \$20,000.00) may be awarded.
- Change of Terms.** Auctioneer and the Bank of Guam reserve the right to change any of the term conducted and enforcement of sale by the announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by the constructive notice.

DATED this 21st day of October, 2024.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

2ND NOTICE OF OPEN AUCTION



**2018 TOYOTA COROLLA (Color: White)**  
**61,146 Miles | Condition: Good**  
**MINIMUM BID: \$6,000.00**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the undersigned counsel, Attorney Robert T. Torres (or his designee), for and on behalf of the Bank of Guam, will sell at auction the abovementioned vehicle to the highest bidder on **October 31, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. in the Conference Room at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres in Chalan Kiya.**

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  - to withdraw the chattel mortgage (vehicle) listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such chattel mortgage (vehicle) is accepted;
  - to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before the chattel mortgage (vehicle) is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever there; and
  - to reject any and all bids.
- Minimum Bid.** The minimum bid for the sale of the abovementioned vehicle is **\$6,000.00**. No advanced bids will be accepted. The vehicle will be sold to the highest bidder “as is, where is” without any warranties. **Bidders must be present in person at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres, 5960 Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya at 10:00 a.m. to bid.** All bids less than \$6,000.00 are rejected. Any person who registers his/her bid shall provide a valid identification card (valid CNMI Driver’s License or Passport). The winning bidder shall be the person whom the vehicle is confirmed to, if the bid is accepted.
- Payment.** The entire purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. **Personal checks /company checks are not accepted.** All payments must be made by cash, money order, or cashier’s check only. The Bank of Guam shall release the chattel mortgage to the winning bidder. Failure to make payment will result the winning bidder forfeiting his/her winning bid. The next highest bidder (minimum \$6,000.00) may be awarded.
- Change of Terms.** Auctioneer and the Bank of Guam reserve the right to change any of the term conducted and enforcement of sale by the announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by the constructive notice.

DATED this 21st day of October, 2024.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer



# Life & Style

## Charles gets a warm welcome on his first visit as king to Samoa

**SIUMU, Samoa (AP)**—In the dark, dozens of people lined a narrow road near the Samoan fishing village of Siumu, gathering near a sign bearing a portrait of King Charles III and waiting excitedly for a glimpse of the real monarch.

A buzz surged through the crowd as a motorcade appeared Wednesday, bearing the first British king to visit a Pacific Island nation.

Hands waved briefly from rolled-down windows and those standing in just the right spot managed to catch a glimpse of the king's face. Then the monarch and his wife, Queen Camilla, were gone. The royals had arrived

earlier Wednesday evening from a visit to Australia.

"All people in Samoa are very excited," said Numio Faoagali, a garbage collector from Siumu who had spent three days cleaning and decorating his house with a Union flag and bunting. He hoped that Charles, who is staying at a resort nearby, might see it.

"It's the first time to see the king. We've only seen him on the TV, not here in Samoa," he said.

Charles is expected to helm a major meeting of leaders from Commonwealth countries in Samoa, including many that once had colonial ties to Britain. His presence is likely



to prompt uneasy questions—as it did in Australia—about the role of the British crown in the histories and aspirations of its former territories.

But on Wednesday, his visit provoked delight too.

Locals were thrilled their village was picked to host the monarch and congregated two hours early on Wednesday to await his arrival. Madeleine A. Tofaeono-Galo said her cousin, who lived on the other side

<sup>AP</sup>  
People wave flags as Britain's King Charles III and Queen Camilla arrive in the village of Siumu, Samoa, on Wednesday, Oct. 23, 2024.

of the island, was travelling to Siumu "just to see the king."

As Apia, the capital, bustled with final preparations to welcome Charles, other world leaders and more than 3,000 delegates to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, enthusiasm focused on the global spotlight the monarch's presence might shine on the island nation of 218,000 people.

"We are excited as a one in a lifetime opportunity," the paramount chief of Siumu, Ataona Tusi Fafetai, told The Associated Press.

"We have pride in our core values, as in hospitality, respect and love and caring for our people," he added. "It's a great opportunity for us to show the world that who we are and what we are as people and our identity as Samoan."

It's the first time a Pacific

Island has hosted the biennial leaders' summit. More than half of the Commonwealth's members are small countries like Samoa, many of them island nations among the world's most imperiled by rising seas.

Climate change will occupy much of the summit's agenda. Charles has championed awareness of the problem for decades, and leaders are expected to agree to an Ocean Declaration pledging fresh, but as yet unspecified, commitments.

"We need support to properly lower the greenhouse effect over our Pacific islands," said Fafetai, the chief. The summit was not only for "unity and awareness", he added, but to "come up some solutions that will help us."

The forum will test the ability of the group of nations from across the globe, with divergent political interests and economic fortunes, to align on matters of substance. It is likely to face uncomfortable, existential questions too.

## Cardi B says she's hospitalized with medical emergency, will miss music festival

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Cardi B says she has been hospitalized with a medical emergency and will have to miss a Saturday night headlining performance at an Atlanta music festival.

"I am so sad to share this

news, but I've been in the hospital recovering from a medical emergency the last couple of days and I won't be able to perform at ONE MusicFest," the Grammy-winning rapper wrote on Instagram. "It breaks my heart

that I won't get to see my fans this weekend."

She added, "I'll be back better and stronger soon. Don't Worry."

The 32-year-old New York native gave no details on her condition.

Cardi gave birth to her third child with rapper Offset less than two months ago. The two are going through a divorce.

She was to have performed along with Earth, Wind & Fire, Nelly, Gunna and GloRilla at the two-day ONE Music Fest.

## Young woman keeps mom at arm's length on social media

**DEAR ABBY:** I'm the mom of an 18-year-old daughter, "Leia." We have always tried to keep the lines of communication open with our children, and we have what I think is a strong, positive familial bond.

My best friend recently informed me that Leia has an Instagram account that's publicly accessible. I can't find her account when I search, which means she has me blocked. The account was created three years ago when she was a minor. I'm not happy with this. When asked back then, Leia told us repeatedly she didn't have an Instagram account -- but I always suspected she did, as most young people her age are engaged in social media.

I would like Leia to unblock me so I can see her beautiful pictures. I'm not a harsh critic or negative person, though Leia often interprets my comments that way. I think she has blocked me because she considers any observations or comments I might make to be parental surveillance. I've told her, repeatedly, that I'm not trying to keep tabs on her.

We have always given our kids what we think is a high level of personal freedom. I just want to see the beautiful images she posts. How do I gently bring this up to her, and ask her to allow me to see her account?

BLOCKED IN NEW YORK

**DEAR BLOCKED:** I don't advise you to ask your now-

**adult daughter to unblock you from her social media. You stated that Leia often interprets your comments and observations as critical and invasive, which may be the reason she blocked you in the first place. Because you long to see her "beautiful pictures," ask your good friend to show them to you on her computer or her cellphone. That way your curiosity will be assuaged, and Leia won't feel invaded.**

■■■

**DEAR ABBY:** I was in a relationship with "Marvin" for 30 years, many of them as a married couple. He has many vices -- drinking and being abusive were the main issues. Our divorce was final two months ago. Marvin's behavior was so poor that if I had told anyone, they would have lost respect for him, and he would have most certainly lost his job. So, I kept his secrets at my own expense. If I had shared what was actually going on, Marvin would have faced the consequences. It was isolating and lonely.

I have been hiding this shame for so long that, now that we are divorced, I'm not sure what to tell people. I want to tell the truth about what I experienced, but I don't want it to seem like I am just badmouthing my ex. How can I open up without seeming bitter?

HELD BACK IN WASHINGTON

**DEAR HELD BACK:** It's time to speak frankly to some-

### DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*



**one. The office of a licensed therapist would be a good place to start. Your doctor or your health insurance company can refer you to someone qualified. If you want to ensure that you won't be regarded as a "bitter divorcee," confide in your closest friends. When you do, explain that you know you should have spoken up sooner, but you were afraid that if you did, Marvin would lose his job, which would have had a negative impact on both of you.**

■■■

*For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)*

### ARRIOLA

From page 31

honor to receive the most prestigious award."

He acknowledges the difficulty in preserving Chamorro language and culture due to influences from other languages and the modern environment. He reflects on the gradual disappearance of native languages, drawing a parallel to his own Chickasaw heritage,

where the language is almost entirely lost.

"I am part Chickasaw... what I have tried to do is the part that I know, and that is writing books and recording the history as it happens." When asked about the language preservation within the community, he does not believe that the "culture will never truly die... Not with the language, but at least with the record of their history and culture."

He further mentions of the

Chamorro language not being spoken often in the public. "In Guam, they don't speak Chamorro... Saipan is dwindling fast. Tinian is still held pretty tight, but it's a small community." He stresses the importance of family involvement in language preservation, as schools alone cannot save the culture.

"Only those children of families that make them, help them, speak Chamorro at home, are saving the culture."

In an interview with Arriola, she stated how she strongly believes that the youth should take a leading role in addressing the geopolitical challenges and changes affecting the island communities. She advocates for their inclusion in decision-making processes.

"Our islands right now are really in the midst of a lot of intense geopolitical changes and insecurity... the youth and our community, you know,

my desire is to see them with a seat at the table in these really important conversations." She stresses the importance of balancing local identity with global representation and reinforces the idea that the challenges faced by indigenous people are shared and require collective action.

"We're all in it together. So to know that it's a collective experience, right? We're all in it together."

Arriola acknowledges the

difficulty many indigenous youths face in maintaining their native languages, such as Carolinian. She adds encouragement and humility in asking for help to learn and reconnect with cultural heritage. "Take courage... whether or not you struggle with language, whether or not you struggle with your identity, it's still who you are," she advises, centering on bravery and perseverance in cultural identity despite the challenges.



# Lillard, Bucks top short-handed 76ers



**PHILADELPHIA** (AP)—Damian Lillard scored 30 points, Giannis Antetokounmpo added 25 and the Milwaukee Bucks defeated the Philadelphia 76ers 124-109 in the season opener for both teams Wednesday night.

Lillard scored 15 points in the third quarter and finished with six 3-pointers, nine rebounds and five assists.

Antetokounmpo shot 8 for 11 from the floor and had a game-high 14 rebounds as Milwaukee got double-figure scoring from six players.

Taurean Prince and Bobby Portis scored 16 points apiece for the Bucks, how had 16 3-pointers.

Tyrese Maxey scored 25 points and Andre Drummond had 13 points and 11 rebounds for Philadelphia, which was without injured stars Joel Embiid and Paul George, who are sidelined due to knee injuries.

## PACERS 115, PISTONS 109

**DETROIT** (AP)—Myles Turner scored 20 points, former Raptor Pascal Siakam and Montreal's Benedit Mathurin had 19 each and Indiana rallied to beat Detroit, spoiling coach J.B. Bickerstaff's debut.

Detroit led by 12 points and was ahead after each of the first three quarters in a closely contested game with 13 lead changes and four ties, but couldn't hang on for the win.

The Pacers overcame an eight-point deficit in the fourth quarter, outscoring the Pistons 33-19 in the quarter in the season-opening game for both teams.

Indiana's Tyrese Haliburton had 15 points and T.J. McConnell added 14.

The Pacers are coming off a surprising run to the Eastern Conference finals and retained

key players such as Siakam, an All-Star forward who signed a max contract.

Cade Cunningham scored 22 of his 28 points in the second half for the Pistons, whose trio of veteran newcomers had solid performances.

## CAVALIERS 136, RAPTORS 106

**TORONTO** (AP)—Evan Mobley scored 25 points, Donovan Mitchell had 21 and Cleveland Cavaliers routed Toronto.

Caris LeVert shot 8 for 9 and scored 19 points, and Jarrett Allen had 14 for the Cavs, whose biggest lead was 33. Cleveland won for the first time in five season-opening meetings with Toronto.

Raptors forward Scottie Barnes shot 3 for 14 and scored nine points in a disappointing season debut.

Toronto's Chris Boucher scored 18 points off the bench, Gradey Dick added 16 and guard Immanuel Quickley scored 13 points in 14 minutes before exiting because of an injury.

## MAGIC 116, HEAT 97

**MIAMI** (AP)—Paolo Banchero scored 33 points and grabbed 11 rebounds, Franz Wagner scored 23 and Orlando rolled past Miami in the opener for both teams.

Gary Harris added 18 for Orlando, all on 3-pointers. The Magic were 18 of 49 from 3-point range.

Terry Rozier scored 19 for Miami, which celebrated "Pat Riley Court" night with a half-time ceremony. Nikola Jovic scored 15 and Tyler Herro added 14 for the Heat.

Orlando led by as many as 32 in the second half.

## HAWKS 120, NETS 116

**ATLANTA** (AP)—Trae Young had 30 points, Onyeka



Milwaukee Bucks' Damian Lillard, front, gets past Philadelphia 76ers' KJ Martin during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Wednesday, Oct. 23, 2024, in Philadelphia.

Okongwu added a career-high 28 and Atlanta opened the season with a victory over Brooklyn.

Young, who also had 12 assists, sealed it with a pair of free throws with two seconds remaining.

Okongwu made 11 of 12 shots from field and all six free throws to eclipse his previous best of 22 points.

Cam Thomas led the Nets with 36 points, but it wasn't enough to prevent a loss for Jordi Fernandez in his NBA head coaching debut.

Atlanta's Jalen Johnson, coming off a \$150 million contract extension, had 11 points and 10 rebounds.

Zaccharie Risacher, the first overall pick in the NBA draft, made his first shot from 3-point range but finished with just seven points on 2-of-

8 shooting for the Hawks.

## PELICANS 123, BULLS 111

**NEW ORLEANS** (AP)—Brandon Ingram scored 33 points, icing the game with a baseline turnaround jumper with 1:46 to go, and New Orleans overcame Zion Williamson's absence to defeat Chicago in both clubs' season opener.

CJ McCollum scored 23 for New Orleans and newly-acquired point guard Dejounte Murray had 14 points, 10 assists and eight rebounds.

Williamson was ruled out shortly before the game because of an illness, marking his 207th missed regular-season game since he was drafted No. 1 overall in 2019.

Zach LaVine scored 27 points, and Nikola Vucevic

had 21 points and 11 rebounds for the Bulls, who trailed for most of the second half and by as many as 16 points in the fourth quarter.

Jalen Smith scored 15 points, and Josh Giddey added 14 points for Chicago.

Jordan Hawkins scored 13 for the Pelicans.

## HORNETS 110, ROCKETS 105

**HOUSTON** (AP)—LaMelo Ball had 34 points and 11 assists in his return from an ankle injury and Grant Williams made a go-ahead 3-pointer with 40 seconds left to give Charlotte a win over Houston.

Jalen Green scored five quick points to tie it before Williams put the Hornets on top with his step-back 3 to make it 106-103. Ball, who was playing in his first regular-season game since Jan. 26, added two free throws after that to secure the victory.

Green led Houston with 28 points and Alperen Sengun added 25 points and 18 rebounds in his return after missing the last 19 games of last season with a severely sprained ankle.

## GRIZZLIES 126, JAZZ 124

**SALT LAKE CITY** (AP)—Ja Morant had 22 points, 10 assists and five rebounds in his return to action to lead Memphis to a victory over Utah.

Morant appeared in just nine games last season after serving a 25-game league suspension before suffering a season-ending shoulder injury. Santi Aldama scored 27 points and Desmond Bane added 24 more for the Grizzlies.

Lauri Markkanen had 35 points and nine rebounds for Utah. Jordan Clarkson chipped in for 17 points and seven assists off the bench. Walker Kessler had 16 points and 14 rebounds.

The Jazz erased a double-di-

git deficit in the fourth quarter and tied it at 116 on Kessler's tip-in with 2:48 left. Aldama scored back-to-back baskets to put the Grizzlies in front for good.

## WARRIORS 139, TRAIL BLAZERS 104

**PORTLAND, Ore.** (AP)—Stephen Curry had 17 points, 10 assists and nine rebounds before sitting for the fourth quarter, and Golden State opened the season with a rout of Portland.

Buddy Hield had 22 points off the bench for the Warriors, who missed out on the playoffs last year.

Portland led by as many as nine points in the opening quarter, but the Warriors pulled ahead and led 62-50 at the break. Curry had a 3-pointer to open the second half and Golden State led by as many as 37 points the rest of the way.

Portland was led by Scoot Henderson with 22 points off the bench. Shaedon Sharpe didn't play because of a shoulder injury.

## SUNS 116, CLIPPERS 113, OT

**LOS ANGELES** (AP) (AP)—Kevin Durant scored 25 points, Bradley Beal added 24 and Phoenix beat Clippers in overtime, spoiling Los Angeles' Intuit Dome debut in the opener for both teams.

James Harden had 29 points and 12 rebounds for the Clippers. He had a chance to send it to double overtime, but missed the second of two free throws with 4.8 seconds remaining.

Jusuf Nurkic gave the Suns a three-point advantage with a pair of free throws. The Clippers had one last chance to send it to another extra session, but Grayson Allen forced a turnover near midcourt after the inbound pass.

Ivica Zubac had 21 points for the Clippers, but fouled out with 2:15 remaining in overtime.

**PHILADELPHIA** (AP)—The 76ers have a new rallying cry for Joel Embiid this season: Trust the plan.

Embiid's absence from the Philadelphia 76ers' season opener against Milwaukee is simply part of the team's plan to keep the two-time NBA scoring champion on track for a healthy season—and maybe, for the first time in his career, the playoffs.

Embiid was ruled out against Milwaukee as part of what the Sixers call left knee management. Now, the 7-footer seems poised to sit out road games Friday at Toronto and Sunday at Indiana, a decision that opened Embiid and the team to criticism.

Paul George was scratched from his debut with the Sixers. The five-time All-NBA selection left the Clippers and signed a four-year, \$212 mil-

# Embiid drawing criticism for sitting out 76ers' opener as part of health plan to reach playoffs

lion contract as a free agent this summer. But, the 34-year-old George sustained a bone bruise when he hyperextended his left knee in the preseason. George will be reevaluated later in the week.

Much like last season when they posted a losing record without Embiid, the 76ers struggled, losing to the Bucks 124-109 on Wednesday night.

All-Star guard Tyrese Maxey shot 10 of 31 from the floor and scored 25 points, and the Sixers trailed by as many as 22. The Sixers essentially used a preseason lineup, with Maxey, Andre Drummond, Kelly Oubre Jr., KJ Martin and Eric Gordon.

"We played one game. I'm

not about to sit here and say that just because Jo was out, we played bad," Maxey said. "Yes, we did not win the game, which is the goal. But we've been without Jo all preseason, all training camp, for the most part. He's ramping up. ... Us winning, it can't be solely on Joel Embiid. It just can't."

The oft-injured Embiid has been blasted by former players, media and unhappy fans on social media for sitting out opening night—after not playing in the preseason due to a sore left knee.

The Sixers said Embiid was "responding well" to his individualized rehab plan and was scheduled to scrimmage this week. He will be reevalu-

ated this weekend.

Embiid was limited to 39 games last season, mostly because of knee surgery after tearing the meniscus in his left knee on Jan. 30 against Golden State. He returned for the playoffs and was diagnosed with Bell's palsy during a first-round loss to the Knicks.

He won an Olympic gold medal this summer with Team USA.

Coach Nick Nurse said before the opener that Embiid did not suffer an additional injury to his left knee.

"The plan is why he's not playing," Nurse said. "... The plan is we don't feel like he's quite ready, strong enough,

light enough ... that they've determined that he's not quite ready to go."

Nurse said Embiid is one voice in who decides when the 2023 NBA MVP will play this season—a plan that likely eliminates action in both ends of back-to-back games.

"Our medical is first and foremost," Nurse said. "Joel is there, the front office, myself, everybody is weighing in ... We're just trying to do something a little different and get him there (to the playoffs) this time."

The NBA is interested in Embiid's situation, too.

The league took steps ahead of last season to ensure that its star players appear in

more games, particularly nationally televised matchups like Wednesday's opener and the in-season tournament.

The NBA's plan calls for increasing fines for violating its policy that could reach a million dollars.

Hall of Famers and TNT broadcasters Charles Barkley and Shaquille O'Neal were among the critics taking aim at Embiid for his reduced schedule.

"You cannot say as a leader of that team, I'm not going to play certain games," Barkley said. "That's not the way to start the season."

The 30-year-old Embiid signed a \$193 million contract before training camp. The 76ers have failed to advance beyond the second round of the playoffs since 2001—in large part because Embiid has failed to stay healthy.



## DESPITE SO MUCH STAR POWER

## Yankees-Dodgers World Series could be decided by role players



**N E W  
Y O R K**  
(AP)—Aaron Judge,

Juan Soto and Gerrit Cole.

Shohei Ohtani, Mookie Betts and Yoshinobu Yamamoto.

No doubt, many of baseball's biggest names will be center stage when the New York Yankees and Los Angeles Dodgers square off in a dream World Series matchup between two of the sport's most successful and storied franchises.

Huge payrolls, massive media markets, enormous fan bases. New York with the best regular-season record in the American League at 94-68, and Los Angeles tops in the National League at 98-64.

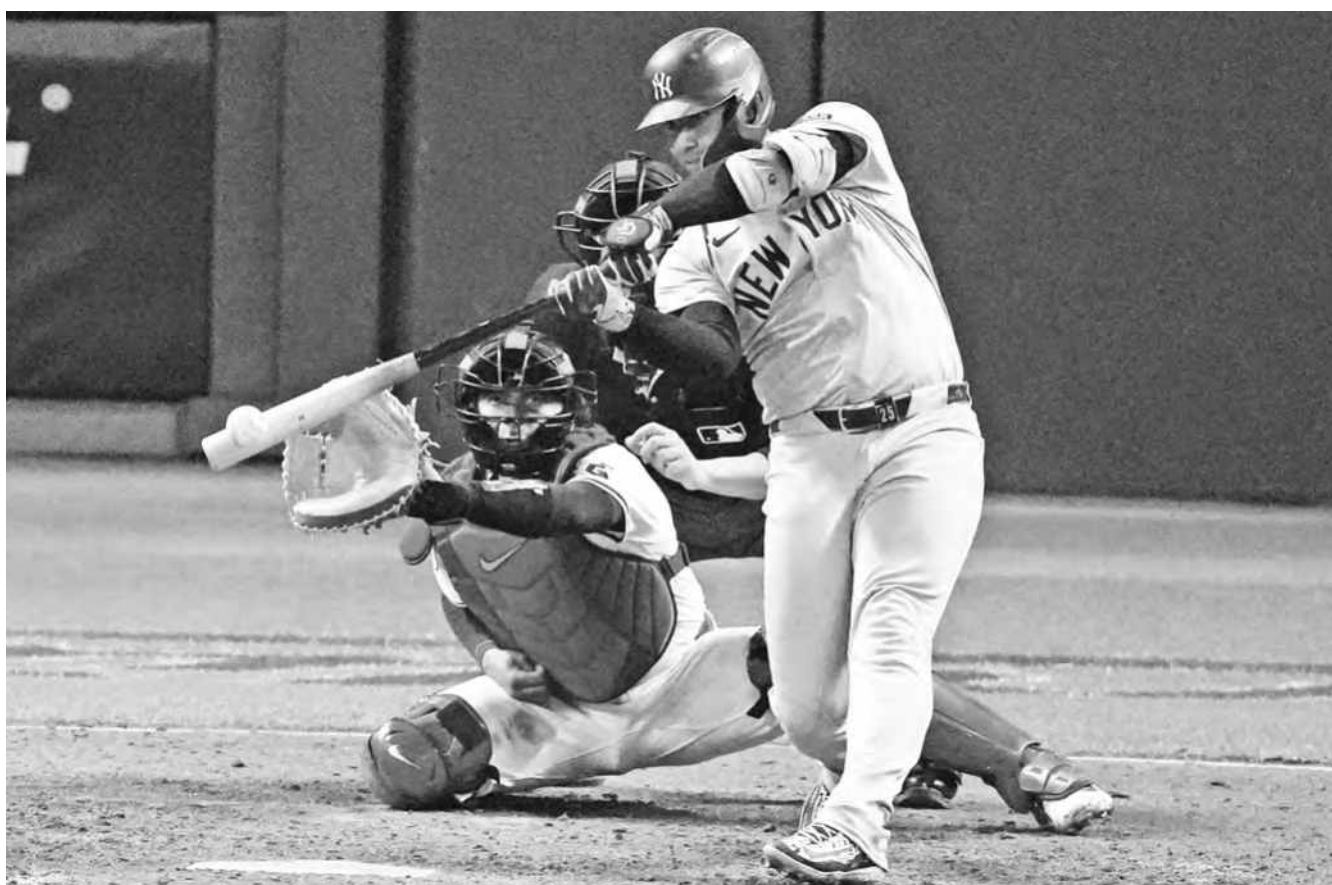
But even with all that star power on the field, this Fall Classic could be decided by the less-celebrated players batting in front of Soto and Judge, and the grind-it-out guys hitting behind Ohtani and Betts. Or the unheralded arms coming out of the bullpen to replace Cole and Yamamoto on the mound.

Some things to watch for when the Yankees and Dodgers meet in the World Series for the 12th time overall and first in 43 years. Game 1 is Friday in Los Angeles:

### Leading off

**Yankees:** Second baseman Gleyber Torres, who can become a free agent this fall, is playing inspired ball in October after looking lackadaisical at times the past few years. His .400 on-base percentage from the leadoff spot in nine postseason games has been critical to New York's offensive production, forcing opposing pitchers to face the likes of Soto, Judge and ALCS MVP Giancarlo Stanton with runners aboard. That leaves less margin for error and means fewer opportunities to work around any of the big sluggers.

**Dodgers:** Ohtani has struck out 17 times in his first postseason, but the \$700 million superstar has scored 12 runs in 11 games. He's batting .286 with three homers, 10 RBIs and a .934 OPS. He homered on consecutive swings at Citi Field in the NLCS, including a leadoff shot in Game 4. What he hasn't done yet is steal a base, after swiping 59 bags during the regular season to go with his 54 homers, making him the first major leaguer with a 50-50 season. The Yankees have a few left-handers they can use to try to neutralize Ohtani, including starter Carlos Rodón, relievers Tim Hill and Tim Mayza—and Nestor Cortes if he returns from an elbow injury as anticipated.



New York Yankees' Gleyber Torres hits a RBI single as Cleveland Guardians catcher Bo Naylor reaches for the pitch during the ninth inning in Game 4 of the baseball AL Championship Series Friday, Oct. 18, 2024, in Cleveland.

### Who's on first?

**Yankees:** After missing the Division Series against Kansas City because of two fractured fingers on his right hand, first baseman Anthony Rizzo returned in the AL Championship Series versus Cleveland and batted .429 (6 for 14) with a double and two walks. The 35-year-old Rizzo has played in 54 postseason games and won a World Series ring with the 2016 Chicago Cubs.

**Dodgers:** Hard to know what Freddie Freeman can provide even after six days off going into Game 1. The popular first baseman has been playing with a badly sprained right ankle that caused him to miss three NL playoff games, including two of the final three in the NLCS against the Mets. Los Angeles is averaging 9.3 runs per game without him in October. Can that possibly continue? Freeman, an eight-time All-Star and the 2020 NL MVP, is batting .219 with one RBI and no extra-base hits during the postseason. If he sits, the flexible Dodgers could again move Max Muncy from third base to first and put Kiké Hernández at third.

### Short story

**Yankees:** Gold Glove shortstop Anthony Volpe had nine hits and eight walks for a .459 on-base percentage during the AL playoffs—a huge improvement over his .288 career mark in two major league seasons. Volpe's newfound patience at the plate toward the bottom of the order has

## At Aaron Judge's urging, the Yankees have minted a new vibe

**NEW YORK (AP)**—These Yankees have minted a new vibe going into their first World Series since 2009.

Baseball's most tradition-bound team, with a grandiose granite-and-limestone stadium and pinstriped home uniforms that have hardly changed since 1936, has added a flamboyant flash to its accessories: Statue of Liberty green.

"Been kind of looking for a little accent color and I think the Statue of Liberty and what it represents in the city and the state, it's a good one," said captain Aaron Judge, who started the color craze.

New York remains the major leagues' most conservatively dressed club in an era marked by expressions of individuality—Yankees players remain forbidden from long hair or beards under a policy owner George Steinbrenner issued in 1976. But whether its Jazz Chisholm Jr. and Alex Verdugo wearing glitzy chains, or Juan Soto walking up to a dembow hit titled after his signature "Soto Shuffle," this year's team isn't as stodgy as the Yankees of yesteryear.

Up and down the lineup, nothing expresses that quite like all the mint green accents. It's on cleats, chest protectors, batting gloves and sliding mitts, along with wrist and elbow guards. This is one team happy to be told it looks like statues—at least sartorially.

Judge is the Yankees' ul-

timate influencer, and if he goes green, the rest of the team follows.

Reliever Jake Cousins remembered joining up with the Yankees at the team hotel in Phoenix after he was acquired on March 31, the fourth day of the season.

"I got on the bus, went to the back, just kind of said, 'What's up?' to everybody and sat there in silence," Cousins said. "And when we pulled into the stadium—Judge sits at the very front—and we got off the bus, and Judge got off first. He waited off on the side for me and I was the last guy off the bus and Judge was there waiting for me, like, 'Hey, man, welcome to the team. If you need anything, I'll help you out.' That just shows his true leadership."

Now 32 and likely to win his second AL MVP Award, Judge leads the Yankees into the World Series starting Friday at the Los Angeles Dodgers. He signed with the Yankees in 2013, made his big league debut three years later and in December 2022 was appointed the team's first captain since Derek Jeter.

"I've been in the Yankees organization for a while and I just felt like that was what I saw the veteran guys do, and I just wanted to be a part of that," Judge said. "I try to continue to do that to this day and try to show our younger guys the same thing, 'How you doing around here?'

because the quicker we get these guys feeling comfortable with us, feel like they're a part of this team, the better they're going to be playing, the better they're going to help us win games."

Yankees manager Aaron Boone cites a togetherness that developed when players started reporting to the minor league complex in Tampa, Florida, last January, well before spring training. Five of the 26 players on the active roster for the AL Championship Series clincher were not with the Yankees when spring training started and acclimated after they arrived.

Getting into the tonal temperament, Nestor Cortes even had a glove made in mint with a navy torch, orange Statue of Liberty flame and "Hialeah Kid" stitched in script into the leather along back of the index finger. The left-hander contacted 44 Pro, his equipment supplier, on April 26 to make a special order.

"I said everybody's using the mint-colored glove here or mint-colored accessory," Cortes recalled telling the company. "I'd like to kind of blend it in with New York and see if we can get a torch in there or something."

Graphic designer Trey Miassek got to work and Cortes used the glitzy glove when he pitched six scoreless innings to beat Baltimore for the Yankees on June 18.

"They're known to be the strictest in the MLB in

helped turn the lineup over and provide RBI chances for the hitters at the top.

**Dodgers:** Tommy Edman was acquired from St. Louis in late July and played in only 37 games this season because of wrist surgery and a sprained ankle. Filling in at shortstop for injured Miguel Rojas, the switch-hitter found himself in the cleanup spot a couple of times during the NLCS — an unusual choice at 5-foot-10 and 193 pounds with 59 regular-season homers in six big league seasons. But boy, did he deliver. Edman batted .407 with a home run, 11 RBIs and a 1.022 OPS to earn NLCS MVP honors. All-Star catcher Will Smith and slugging outfielder Teoscar Hernández didn't get going against the Mets until Game 6. And with Freeman struggling or sidelined throughout the series, Edman's at-bats behind Ohtani and Betts were pivotal. Maybe they will be again.





LEIGH GASES

Crew of the *Mikaela*, including grand master navigator Mario Benito, are seen getting ready to head out after the opening ceremony of the 24th Micronesia Cup Canoe Race at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan last Saturday.

## NICKOLE

From page 36

of December in Cincinnati, Ohio,” said Nicko.

“She wants to thank all her friends at Gracie Barra Summerville for helping her prepare and to all the family members that continue to support her,” he added.

Nickole also recently won gold in the IBJJF Pan Kids Jiu Jitsu Championship 2024 last July and in the American National IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu Championships.

Nickole’s younger brother, 5-year-old Mattheo, is also a mixed martial artist who also recently won gold in his division during the IBJJF Pan Kids American Championship last June, and in the American National IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu Championships 2024.

Nicko is a U.S. Marine and a 2012 graduate of Saipan Southern High School, while his wife and Nickole’s mother, Maria Victoria, is an alumnae of Marianas High School. They now reside in Charleston, South Carolina.

## SHIRLEY’S

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the pitch, Kanoa’s Ye Lynn Ha broke through to put them up, 1-0 in the 15th. Then, a minute later, doubled their advantage as Shirley’s was left scrambling to regroup.

Alyssa Borlongan didn’t take long to find the back of the net and get Shirley’s on board in the 22nd minute for a 1-2 game. Shirley’s tried to rally and had some chances to equalize, but Kanoa’s defenses held to maintain their one goal lead. Then, Cali Cabrera extended their lead in the 37th and made it 3-1.

A couple minutes later, Shirley’s Princess Gariguez landed

a goal and cut the lead to one once again, 2-3. However, Shirley’s weren’t able to further produce as time ran out and lost by one.

In other results of the U14 boys division, MP United silenced Kanoa FC 1, 2-0, and Matansa won over Kanoa FC 2 via forfeit; in other results of the U14 girls division, Kanoa slipped past Shirley’s, 3-2, and Latte won over Paire, 5-1.

As for the U12 boys division, Matansa took down Kanoa FC 2, 2-1; MP United beat Kanoa FC 1, 3-1; and Shirley’s tore through Paire, 3-1.

In the older age groups, U17 boys team Kanoa edged Women’s Development Team, 2-0, and MP United beat Latte, 2-1.

## NAVIGATING

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At the event’s opening canoe blessing ceremony, local healer or “Suruhanu/Yo’amte” in the Chamorro language, Donald Mendiola, and master navigator Mario Benito called upon ancestral spirits to protect the canoes and their racers.

Mendiola and Benito, both central figures in preserving cultural traditions, participated in the race aboard two canoes from the 500 Sails fleet. Mendiola sailed on the 26-foot Chamorro vessel *Richard Seaman*, while Benito captained *Mikaela*, a Refaluwasch-style sailing canoe designed and built by Benito and other local residents.

The *Mikaela*, with its fiberglass hulls and traditional wooden spars, yards, and mast, represented the blending of modern materials with time-honored craftsmanship. Another canoe, *Anaguan*, also played a significant role in the blessing ceremony.

During the opening remarks, emcee Gordon Marciano shared a powerful oral history about Micro Beach, underscoring its importance to Refaluwasch navigators. The navigator’s name is Piyaal O-lang, meaning “Sand of Heavenly Skies” in the Refaluwasch language.

According to the story, the legendary master navigator O-lang (also spelled Wo-lang) first landed on Saipan at this beach while journeying from Satwal to Japan. Guided by celestial stars and weather patterns, O-lang’s navigational skills left an enduring legacy, with the sailing route between the central Caroline Islands and the Marianas named in his honor. Today, Micro Beach remains a vital cultural site, where Refaluwasch seafarers

continue to study the skies and navigate by the stars.

This story is reaffirmed by chair Ray Tebuteb and grand master navigator Silver Cecilio Raiukiulipi, as well as the canoe federation voyagers. Marciano emphasized that Micro Beach is not only significant for its navigational history but also serves as a site of deep cultural and spiritual importance. It is here that the Refaluwasch people perform firowrow, a farewell ceremony for loved ones that has been practiced for generations. This connection to both navigation and cultural traditions underscores the enduring legacy of Micro Beach for the Refaluwasch community.

The return of the Micronesian Cup to Saipan was celebrated by local leaders, including Northern Marianas Sports Association president Jerry Tan.

“It is so nice to see the Micro Cup being held on Saipan,” said Tan. He gave a special welcome to the Marshall Islands, who joined the competition for the first time. Tan also praised the hard work of Justin Andrew and the Northern Marianas National Paddle Sports Federation board.

“They’ve been telling our board for over a year about this competition, which means a lot of planning and preparation went into making it a reality. I really want to recognize their leadership and the volunteers who made this event happen,” he said.

As part of the cultural experience, Mendiola explained the significance of the canoe blessing in the Chamorro language.

“In Chamorro, we call it *inafa’maolek*, which means interdependence. It’s about coming together as a community, helping each other, and making this event a fun and cooperative experience. Everyone has

fun.” He added that the blessing reflects the values of love and unity, which are central to the event.

Richard Sikkell, not only the race director but also one of the event organizers with the NMNPSF, expressed pride in bringing the Micronesian Cup back to the CNMI after a 12-year hiatus.

“It’s an honor to have it back here. The last two times we were supposed to host, we had to cancel due to storms. We’re lucky we can host it this year, and we’re excited about all the equipment and canoes we have available to make this event happen,” he said.

Sikkell acknowledged the challenges of organizing the event, particularly securing sponsorship amid economic difficulties.

“We’re working with a budget of \$30,000, and it’s been tough to make sure everyone’s on board. But by putting on this event and showing how big it is, we hope it’ll be even bigger next time and easier to organize,” he added.

The race also served as a showcase for the paddling talent in the CNMI, with local teams performing well in various categories.

“We did pretty well,” Sikkell remarked. “The Saipan Paddling Club did great in the juniors’ division, the Marianas Outrigger Club took gold in the V12, and the Marianas Pacific Paddlers earned medals in several events.”

Sikkell reflected on the growth of the NMNPSF since the last time Saipan hosted the event, noting that the organization has made significant strides in recent years. “Twelve years ago, we were struggling to get canoes. Now, we have all the equipment we need and a canoe house at Kilili Beach to store it. It’s been super nice to have these resources, and

it allows us to host bigger events,” he said.

Looking ahead, Sikkell emphasized the importance of engaging the next generation of paddlers. “I’m hoping to get the juniors involved. We have a lot of junior teams this year, and I hope that continues to grow. That’s really the future of paddling in the CNMI,” he said.

The return of the Micronesian Cup, after such a long hiatus, was not just a sporting event—it was a celebration of maritime traditions, community spirit, and the enduring connection of the people of the CNMI to the sea. Through the competition and cultural ceremonies, the event reaffirmed the shared heritage of the islands of Micronesia and set the stage for future paddling events in the region.

NMNPSF would like to thank the following sponsors: Tan Holdings, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, Crowne Plaza, IT&E, MARPAC, Marianas Visitors Authority, Turnkey Solutions, The Athlete’s Foot, Paradise Realty Saipan, Marianas Pacific Paddlers, Micronesia Brokers, H.K. Pangelinan & Associates, LLC, Coca Cola, UR Tents, Northern Marianas College’s media team, Hafa Adai Rent A Car, and Herman’s Bakery.

Special thanks to the Saipan Mayor’s Office, Department of Fire and Emergency Management Services, Division of Parks & Recreation, Rep. John Paul Sablan (Ind-Saipan), Vince Castro, Next Level Media CNMI, Christopher Toto, Angie Yaromrad, CNMI Designs, KKMP, Pacific Development, Inc., Chamolinian Cultural Village Inc., Wiski Services, 500 Sails, Pualani Crown, Mariana Islands Nature Alliance, I Napu Dance Group, Da Kine, Tipiyew Bwi-bwis, and Asia Hilario.

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

Yankees-Dodgers  
World Series could  
be decided by role  
players.

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## Nickole is 4x Pan-Am champ



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Nickole Salem poses with her gold medal after the Pan Kids IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu No-Gi Championship 2024 last Sunday in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

By LEIGH GASES  
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REPORTER

Up-and-coming mixed martial artist Nickole Salem is continuing to leave her mark in the world of Brazilian jiu jitsu as she won her fourth championship in the Pan Kids IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu No-Gi Championship 2024 last Sunday in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Nickole Salem, center, is on the podium with her fourth gold medal in the Pan Kids IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu No-Gi Championship last Sunday in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

## Navigating heritage: 24th Micronesia Cup Canoe Race



LEIGH GASES

Crew of the *Anâguan* poses for a photo during the opening ceremony of the 24th Micronesia Cup Canoe Race last Saturday at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan.

By JERCY DIANA MAXIMO  
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CORRESPONDENT



The 24th Micronesia Cup Canoe Race held in the waters off Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan last weekend brought together over 200 participants

from Guam, the CNMI, and the Marshall Islands for men's, women's, juniors, and masters va'a outrigger canoe races.

This regional race, typi-

cally hosted alternately by Guam, Palau, and Saipan, marked a momentous occasion for paddling enthusiasts. Though Palau is usually part of the competition, they were unable to attend this year as they are preparing for the upcoming Mini Games.

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LEIGH GASES

Local healer Donal Mendiola, left, chants in Chamorro during the opening canoe blessing ceremony, while grand master navigator Mario Benito looks on during the 24th Micronesia Cup Canoe Race last Saturday at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan.



The 7-year-old had three fights in the pee-wee 2, gray belt, feather-weight division, and won gold after beating silver medalist Elizabeth Lee Valk in the finals via reverse triangle.

Salem won her first fight by points, 14-0, and the semis by submission via armbar.

Bronze went to Luiza Illidio de Souza and Madison Aubree Ayers.

Through her father, Nicko Salem, Nickole said that she's ready for the next challenge and was excited to compete out of the gi category.

"She'll potentially be promoted to a new belt level by the end of this year. That means competing with tougher competition," said Nicko. Nickole also dabbles in wrestling, and Nicko said, "The wrestling season is starting in November and she has a super fight in jiu jitsu by the end

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## Shirley's, Kanoa chomp on foes in TYSL

By LEIGH GASES  
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REPORTER



Shirley's Football Club and Kanoa FC chomped

on their foes in their respective divisions of the TakeCare Youth Soccer League Fall 2024 at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville last Saturday.

Shirley's U12 boys team maneuvered the pitch well and won, 3-1, over Paire FC.

It was a strong start to the matchup with Shirley's quickly stirring the pot and scoring a goal just a minute in from the cleat of Jenio Pino. Paire tried to weave through and create some plays and it paid off with a conversion in the 17th by Casmiro Cosmes to knot it all up, 1-1.

It was anybody's game at this point as they both tried to break up the tie. Both teams attacked and barraged each

other's territory with no result until Shirley's Jpiel Calsita put them up, 2-1, in the 30th minute. Pino then ensured them some insurance goal just a couple minutes later for a 3-1 game.

Paire's attempts at the goal from then were hasty and

they were unable to deliver as Shirley's defenses didn't allow them any more access to their keeper.

In the U14 girls division, Kanoa held on to win, 3-2, over Shirley's.

After multiple exchanges on

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NMIFA

A Shirley's player, right, tries to outmaneuver a Paire player during their game in the TakeCare Youth Soccer League Fall 2024 at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville last Saturday.